

**Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
Combat Direct Center Officer**

On 11 May 2020 I was interviewed in connection with a command investigation concerning chain of command actions with regard to COVID-19 onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) via telephone.

What follows is a true and accurate representation of my statement for this investigation.

Witness Name: CDR (b) (6)

Position: CDCO

Command: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Operations

Department/Division:

Email Address: (b) (6)

Phone(s): (b) (6)

I am in isolation at the Guam High School isolation site in Guam. I went into isolation on 28 April after a positive COVID test onboard TR after having no symptoms. I recently tested positive again after 12 days of isolation and will test again in 96 hours according to current protocol. Test results typically take 3-4 days to receive from the lab in Korea.

Before our port visit to Da Nang, we had much of the same information that was publically available to rest of the world via the internet and TV. However, COVID was just breaking out when we left on deployment and since it was a new disease, there wasn't a lot of definitive information available. At that time, I believe COVID was portrayed as a highly contagious version of the flu. Initially, Sailors were told to follow good hygiene protocol - wash hands often, avoid touching faces, clean common areas - to prevent the spread of the virus. Anyone displaying symptoms was encouraged to go to medical.

There wasn't a panic or scare on TR due to the growing world interest. Leadership took appropriate action and talked considerably about the COVID risk prior to visiting Da Nang. I was actually part of the advanced team that set up the port visit, so I flew to Da Nang twice prior to TR pulling in. The first time was in February and the second time was about one week prior to TR's arrival. During the coordination meetings, Vietnamese government officials were concerned with the possibility of TR/BKH bringing COVID into Vietnam. There had previously been 14 reported cases in Vietnam, but Da Nang did not have any active/current cases, and Vietnam did not want to potentially (re)infect its citizens during the port visit. Likewise, TR believed that since the ship would be underway for almost a month before its arrival in Vietnam,

Subj: Witness Statement of CDR (b) (6), USN

it could guarantee a COVID free ship and minimize any transmission hazard.

During preparations, planners cancelled most of the events that would draw large crowds. Additionally, event participation was limited to group sizes of around 30 people. One exception was the Big Top reception planned to be hosted in TR's hangar bay and flight deck. A mix of government officials, military leaders, industry and civilian leaders were invited to the reception. On the day of the reception, weather prevented the event from being conducted on the ship (sea state was too rough for the liberty boats). There was an audible to move the reception to the Golden Bay Hotel. At Golden Bay, guest screening (temperature checks and verbal symptom questionnaire) was in place at the hotel entrance. Planners originally expected 500 people to attend, but the actual attendee count ended up being closer to 250. Guest attire was military Summer Whites (or equivalent) or civilian business casual. The majority of attendees did not wear masks, which was the observed norm for guests and employees inside of the hotel. Food was served buffet style using small plates.

At the pier, there was a temperature scanner that all sailors had to walk through when departing the pier. The Vietnamese supported us to take precautions. At that time, fever was thought to be one of the major symptoms so there was significant emphasis around Vietnam to monitor body temperatures. Additionally, all sailors were briefed about reporting any other symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose, etc.) Forehead thermometers were used on Sailors returning to the ship. I do not believe we had any issues with anyone having a temperature departing or returning to the ship.

Around the ship, basic hygiene measures were in place. In February, we had a round of double dragon, so hygiene measures were well socialized and being practiced in places like the galley. Prior to Vietnam, I do not recall any social distancing measures in place or a requirement to wear masks.

After the port visit, people exhibiting COVID-like symptoms became a real thing on TR. Sometime around two weeks after Da Nang, TR instituted more health measures such as 6' social distancing. The ship tried to follow CDC social distancing guidelines in the chow lines by putting tape on the floor to maintain 6' separation. Hand sanitizer was available and used by crew members when getting food. In the wardroom, CS's served much of the food to minimize the number of people touching the serving utensils.

The timeline for the implementation of more stringent COVID prevention guidelines reflects the assumption that the ship was clean after the month-long period at sea (prior to Vietnam). Additionally, to the best of my knowledge, nobody exhibited symptoms after Vietnam during the first week underway. Social distancing and other virus mitigations grew as the possibility of

Subj: Witness Statement of CDR (b) (6), USN

COVID onboard grew.

As soon as people started showing symptoms and tested positive, we knew we needed to put them into isolation. We also expanded monitoring and testing of close contacts from berthings and work centers. It all happened very quickly. When we started testing, we learned that people could be COVID positive without exhibiting symptoms. Now, there are many different COVID symptoms so it is often hard to determine what is caused by COVID and what is not.

For cleaning, I believe we had a waiver to use bleach on the ship. We started wiping down common surfaces as often as possible. TR instituted bleachapalooza, which was a version of cleaning stations multiple times a day. In the galley, self-serve was stopped.

I know we had safety stand downs and information being passed on Site TV. I don't believe people were confused about the guidelines. Even though Sailors expressed their normal complaining, they were following the rules. I think originally there was pretty high morale on the ship and everyone was doing their part. For masks, we started out using whatever we had - cut up t-shirts, flash gear, flight deck bandanas - and eventually got N-95 masks. There was a lot of enforcement of the rules. If someone broke a rule, they were corrected. Wearing a mask was not optional. I felt like the crew understood the severity.

The rise in positive cases was like an exponential curve: once we started getting cases, it ramped up. From what I've seen, many people have minor symptoms or no symptoms. Most people are pretty calm. Several people have family members or friends at home who have contracted COVID. The disease definitely affects people differently.

When looking for a place to put people in isolation after our first positive tests, there was some discussion of going to Okinawa. That did not happen - I heard that there were not enough beds.

Leadership has been concerned and involved throughout this endeavor. From what I can tell, I think all of the HODs get along well. TR received a new XO in late February/early March and outgoing/incoming XOs conducted turnover during Da Nang. It seemed pretty seamless getting CAPT (b) (6) up to speed and he was ready to go.

As ECC lead, I received many RFI taskers. CSG-9 staff handled a lot of the RFIs but they would often reach out to the ECC for data. I don't recall chain of command issues. There were a lot of people needing a lot of information - numbers on how many COVID positive cases were present, predictions on how soon we could get back underway, and things like that. I think initially we all thought this was going to be a quicker process than it has turned out to be. The ECC typically received RFIs from the battlewatch captain.

Sometimes there were frustrations with frequently changing information and requests for

Subj: Witness Statement of CDR (b) (6), USN

additional information. A lot of times, we had the requested data already collected or at least partially collected but not in the desired format. It was hard to keep up and we often spent many manhours pulling information. An example of an RFI that took a lot of time was the high-risk data for smoking and obesity.

The ECC was stood up in the XO's Conference Room the day TR pulled in to Guam and was initially manned by some operations department personnel plus a few others. We quickly realized we needed to go 24 hours a day. We later received help from CAG/DCAG and employed the Airwing Squadron COs until they were transferred to hotels. The ECC mapped out "hotspots" on the ship by using DC charts to plot out the berthings where COVID positive Sailors slept. At the end of testing, COVID hotspots were all throughout the ship. As we started figuring out the data that needed to be reported, things got easier. We had a placemat that was updated daily that streamlined common information. This placemat was sent to the CSG and CVN leadership and archives can be found on the ship's sharedrive. Any ECC1 products should be accessible by current ECC members.

Each isolation site has an OIC. I am the OIC for the Guam High School site. We have twice daily medical checks and all hands cleaning stations 3 times per week. Everybody is also responsible for cleaning up after themselves regularly. The ship and base provide supplies, to include Clorox wipes, broom, hand soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

I swear (or affirm) that the information in the statement above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

(Witness' Signature)

(Date)

Time

Transcript

Marine Corps Officials Hold a Defense Department News Briefing on COVID-19 Efforts

MARCH 26, 2020

Marine Corps Commandant General David H. Berger; Sergeant Major Of The Marine Corps Troy E. Black; Thomas B. Modly, Acting Secretary Of The Navy; Rear Admiral James Hancock, Medical Officer Of The Marine Corps

STAFF: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

This morning, the secretary will provide remarks, and then we'll field questions by the commandant of the Marine Corps and sergeant major of the Marine Corps and the medical officer of the Marine Corps.

Sir?

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE NAVY THOMAS B. MODLY: Okay, thank you.

Good morning. Thanks again for what you do to keep the nation informed and for giving us a forum to -- to get information out. We appreciate it very much.

So good morning to all of you, and good morning to General Berger and Sergeant Major Black. Thanks for being here, and thanks for your leadership of the Marine Corps.

On Tuesday, I spoke to you about our efforts on the Navy side, and today we want to update you on the measures we are taking within the Marine Corps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

But before I do that, let me just give our latest Navy numbers so everyone's on the same page, in terms of where we are.

We have a total of 133 COVID-19-positive cases in the United States Navy. That's 104 active duty military, 23 civilians, 16 dependents, and 19 contractors.

I also want to give a quick update on the Teddy Roosevelt, which we spoke about the other day. We are -- we found several more cases on board the ship. We are in the process now of testing 100 percent of the crew of that ship to ensure that -- that we don't -- that we were able to contain whatever spread might have occurred there on the ship. And -- but I also want to emphasize that the ship is operationally capable and can do its mission if -- if required to do so.

So the ship is pulling into Guam. It will be pier-side. No one on the crew will be allowed to leave anywhere into Guam other than on pier-side. And we are already starting the process of testing 100 percent of the crew to ensure that -- that we've got that contained.

The sailors who have been flown off the ship are currently doing fine. None of them have been required to be hospitalized because their symptoms are very mild, their aches and pains and those types of things, sore throats but nothing that required hospitalization. So they're in quarantine now on Guam.

With respect to the Marine Corps, as of today, we have 44 positive tests for COVID-19 within the Marine Corps; 31 military, five civilian, five dependents and three contractors. We are continuing to take actions across the force to prevent the spread of the disease, contain any potential outbreaks and recover the force as quickly as possible.

We're doing all this across our integrated naval force in partnership with the Joint Force and our whole-of-government approach. We continue to provide quarantine support at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for American citizens returning from home from areas impacted by the virus.

We provided commanders and supervisors guidance to help personnel and families impacted by official travel restrictions and delays.

This supplemental guidance will help commanders identify personnel, policies, pay, benefits and flexibilities to help minimize the risk to Marines, respond to evolving situations and to ensure the readiness of the force. This guidance covers topics such as alternative places of duty, telework, leave and liberty along with subsistence, housing, family separation, temporary living and restriction of movement allowances.

General Berger recently published a white letter to all commanders and senior enlisted leaders describing our expectation of commanders and giving them the leeway to make decisions to preserve the force. And I'll obviously give him some time to talk about that if you -- if you'd like to hear more about that.

To help with social distancing, General Berger also has directed much of the headquarters and Marine Corps staff to remain at home to telework if they have the capability. Our intent is to maximize virtual conferences, meetings, classes and telework to alleviate large office crowding as consistent with the CDC guidance.

We have scaled back or canceled several service-level exercises to include exercises in Twentynine Palms and our Mountain Warfare Training Center.

We canceled scheduled training with our partner nations to prevent the spread of the virus. We remain fully transparent in reporting any positive tests on our installations to the local communities.

In that spirit, I want to confirm that a Marine stationed at the Pentagon tested positive for COVID-19 on March 24th. Per U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidelines, the Marine is currently in isolation at his home and will undergo further assessment by health professionals.

The Marine followed official guidance by isolating himself when his spouse began to show some symptoms. Once he became ill, he contacted his assigned medical facility. His workspace has been cleaned by a Pentagon response team and a thorough contact investigation is currently under way to mitigate risk and to preserve the health of our Marines, civilians, and families.

The Marine was last inside the Pentagon on March 13th. Two individuals were advised to self-isolate due to close contact with this individual and the Pentagon, and both those individuals are currently asymptomatic.

Effective immediately, naval recruiters will temporarily transition to prospecting via digital and telephone means only. Marine recruiters will not be meeting in person with prospects or with applicants. Both Marine Corps recruit depots have implemented formal screening measures to identify possible cases of COVID-19 in recruits upon their arrival to the depot, as well as prior to traveling to the depot during their in-processing at the military entrance processing stations; we call those MEPS. Those who present any symptoms receive follow-on assessment to protect the health of our communities and sustain force health in -- force health and generation. At this time we -- we know that at least two recruits have tested positive for the virus down at Parris Island, but no instructors have tested positive.

Recent test results confirmed also that two Marines stationed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, have also tested for COVID-19. Those Marines are already in quarantine when they were notified of their test results. Both of those Marines worked in offices independent and separate from the recruit training locations. They are in -- as I mentioned, we just received -- received word that there are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 with recruits.

Public graduation ceremonies have been closed to the public until further notice to minimize the spread of the -- spread of the virus to the force and to their families. The depots have also implemented other health protection measures, to include spatial distancing in common areas like the chow hall, squad bays, and classrooms. We expect leaders to apply judgment to all situations and implement force health protection measures in order to preserve the force and our mission. Our commanders are empowered to take necessary precautions because the virus is unique to every situation and in every location.

We will continue to assess and modify as needed future global force management for deployment and redeployment plans for the next 60 days. Today, roughly 37,000 Marines are forward-deployed or forward-stationed. Those preparing for deployment continue to do so,

while taking measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Marine Corps and our entire integrated naval force remains committed to mission readiness during this COVID-19 pandemic. We stand ready to answer the nation's call, while also preserving the force and our communities, and of course, our families.

Thank you. We look forward to your questions.

STAFF: Sir, we'll start on the phone. Bob Burns, Associated Press?

Q: Yes, thank you. Can you hear me?

STAFF: Yes, we hear you. Go ahead, Bob.

Q: Okay, Bob Burns from AP. I have a question for both commandant and the secretary.

General Berger, the secretary just mentioned briefly the reductions and cancellations of various exercises and training. I'm wondering if you can give a more broad assessment of the -- the -- the degree to which training has been impaired here. Is it, like, given all the restraints, including the stop movement order from Secretary Esper yesterday, is -- is training been reduced by, say, 50 percent or more?

And then if I could also ask a question of the secretary. You mentioned the 103 active duty Navy have been tested positive. I don't know precisely the comparison with the other services, but that seems to be higher than the other services, and I'm -- I'm wondering whether there's an explanation for why the infection rate seems to be higher in the Navy. Thank you.

SEC. MODLY: Well, let me answer that question first, then I'll turn it over to General Berger on the -- the other question about the training piece.

I think we are trending higher. I think some data that I saw this morning showed that we are probably a third of all the active-duty people that have tested positive are within the Navy and - and Marine Corps. I don't have a reason for that. I -- I -- it would be speculation for me to try to give you a reason for why that has happened.

I -- I will say that we -- our forces are all over the world, all the time. That may have something to do with it, and they -- we also have big fleet concentration areas such as San Diego and Norfolk and other areas, where we have a lot of people that are together. But that's all speculation. We have not done the forensics yet on -- on where -- where these individual sailors contracted the disease, and until we know that, it just wouldn't -- it would be irresponsible for me to say why we think this is happening.

General Berger?

MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT GENERAL DAVID H. BERGER: Yes. As far as training, I think -- I -- I wouldn't -- I don't know if 50 percent -- I don't know the exact percentage. We haven't calculated it. I would say, though, that as the secretary mentioned, the -- the unique part about the Navy and Marine Corps team is this is your force in readiness that has to be ready to respond to a problem around the world, and we've -- we've never been given advance notice when that'll happen, so we have to be ready all the time.

So the -- the commanders, the guidance to them is pretty clear: Our force has to be ready to respond when we're given the direction to do so. So you need to conduct a training that's necessary to maintain your readiness. Now, they have changed the way that they're training and -- and to a large degree, where there's not large bodies in a close, confined space. They've spread it out, and they've curtailed some training that was nice to do, good to do, but not absolutely necessary for their mission-essential tasks.

So they've tailored it, but I think you expect your Marine Corps and -- and your Navy to be ready to go when -- when called to do so, and that's what they're training -- that's what their responsibility is.

STAFF: Mike Glenn?

Q: Yes, sir.

About the basic training graduations, when I graduated from basic it was important for my -- my -- my parents, it was important for them to be there because I accomplished something, finally, in my life. How -- what are you doing to allow them -- allow parents -- I mean, are you putting it on closed circuit, or you know, some sort of videotaping it or something so they can watch it at home.

SEC. MODLY: Yeah, they are. You want to answer the rest of that? I know -- correct. Everything is being televised live and recorded both. You -- you want to add anything, Sergeant Major?

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS TROY E. BLACK: I had a couple tours of -- of depots as a drill instructor, so I -- I understand how important that those events are for the families and -- and for the recruits, new Marines that are getting ready to graduate. So this is a unique time. We're trying to find a unique answer to be able to provide that same sort of experience. It's not going to be the same as sitting at the bleachers at a graduation. There's just no way to replicate that, but there is some digital record of it that that's going to be transitioned with the new Marine, and they'll have that in their -- in their capacity to have that.

STAFF: Gina Harkins? Gina, are you there?

Q: Good morning. Thanks for doing this.

So as you know, some of these services, you know, the Navy in particular have taken some aggressive measures to keep troops from gathering in groups. They're delaying fitness testing, promotion selection boards, relaxing grooming standards. Is the Marine Corps moving out on any of those policies? And if not, why not?

GEN. BERGER: I want to address each one individually, but where they make sense, yes. Things like grooming standards -- barber shops in one area may be open, and in another base they may be closed. So we very much trust the leaders to make those calls, and we've given them the latitude to waive requirements where it's not practical to meet them. So because the -- the flu, like other pandemics, is different area to area, region to region, we've not said all grooming standards are relaxed for a given period of time. But what we have said is all commanders have the latitude to make adjustments based on what's available at your location.

I don't know if that answers exactly what you're asking, Gina.

Q: It does. And what about promotions board meeting, fitness tests?

GEN. BERGER: Promotion board's pretty fascinating. This is an area where over the last week, week and a half -- and I suppose probably the other service are the same -- looking at really creative ways for how you would run a promotion board.

Instead of, in other words, everybody being in one room staring at a computer screen discussing one Marine at a time, we're now looking at either we might have to delay it, or is it possible to spread across two or three rooms electronically with video teleconference capability and still be able to have the promotion board run on time, but you would be spread across multiple rooms.

So it's driving us to be pretty creative. And I -- again -- I suppose the other services are doing the same.

In some cases we'll delay things, in other cases that I think like always, younger leaders are coming up with really creative ideas for how to -- how to accomplish it but in a different way.

STAFF: Tara.

Q: Thank you. Tara Copp with McClatchy.

I was wondering how boot camp has changed now, or what adjustments have you made with the personal grooming or is everybody still getting their head shaved? What's going on there?

GEN. BERGER: Everybody's still getting their head shaved as long as the barbers come to work. But they are -- like here, he's smiling. You probably got the same, right, I imagine?

But there will come that time if it gets worse and worse and worse where barbers won't come to work. In that case, you know, we'll have to make a decision: Do Marines cut Marines' hair? Do we make adjustments? And we'll -- the commanders at both of our recruit depots have thought their way through it.

I think on the preventive side is the -- as the secretary mentioned, those who are going through the military entrance processing center and then onto Parris Island or San Diego, they're being isolated for a period of time to have a good look at them, to observe them before training starts, where normally they would have that period after boot camp -- like I'm probably sure you did for leave afterwards. We've just moved that to the front end.

So now, when you get to Parris Island or San Diego, you're in isolation for a period of time so we can observe and make sure everybody's healthy to go to start training day one.

But during training -- I don't know if you heard major adjustments during training, Sergeant Major, let me ask you.

SGT. MAJ. BLACK: Ma'am, that's a great question.

Again, here's my experience in the environment. There are challenges. It's kind of a new opportunity.

But social distancing is one of the largest hurdles right now in the environment, because it is closed. However, in our dining facilities, recruits are spread out more than they probably would be. Inside squad bays, they're spread out more than they normally would be. Hygiene's always a priority and cleanliness is always a high priority inside of recruit training, because inherently, no matter what, you bring people from across America, in one close space, there's challenges. That's a good thing, because there's already a heightened sense of hygiene already in that environment.

So imagine those things right now and making minor adjustments to the training schedule. But right now there's no significant impacts to what that product is at the end, which is a U.S. Marine.

Q: And then as a follow up, have any of the Marine Corps cases been aboard ships?

GEN. BERGER: None that I know of. There might be, but none that I'm aware of yet. No.

Q: And then if I may one last one, Mr. Secretary, for Navy personnel on the ships that tested positive, how did you get the tests to test the entire ship? And where are those tests going now to be processed?

SEC. MODLY: So on the carriers, on -- on the large-deck ships we have the capability to test in a lab there on the ship. So that's, sort of, our limiting factor right now: they can process through a certain number a day. And so we are looking at ways now to not only test -- maximize that capacity on the ship to test, but also to send some of those swab tests out to some of the other DOD labs for -- for testing.

STAFF: Shawn Snow? Shawn, are you there?

Q: General Berger, thank you for doing this.

I was wondering if you could address this idea that there's a general sense that the Marine Corps is not being a responsible stakeholder.

Pictures are still flowing in of large-scale mass formations, rifle ranges are still ongoing, exercises still kicking off as far as I know, 3/1 still has a large-scale ITX slated at Twentynine Palms in April, and barber shops on Marine bases are still open in states with stay-at-home orders.

How much readiness is impacted by the Corps just simply staying put for a couple months or altering its training to use more virtual trainers or academic classes? Thank you.

GEN. BERGER: I think it's the -- if the pictures look different to you, Shawn, if they look unique, it's probably because it's true, the Marine Corps is unique. And we are mandated by law to be the nation's most ready force, and that's what I think you expect us to be.

The exercise you referred to at Twentynine Palms -- I'm not sure where you're getting your information from -- will not go in April, and we made that decision a couple days ago. So again, I'm not sure where you're pulling your information from but it may be dated a day or two.

The training that we do have to do -- for example, like the sergeant major said, at recruit training or officer candidate training, some of that is absolutely necessary and everything from where they live to martial arts training, some of that is pretty close and up personal .

But we're very confident that both the -- the leadership that supervises that training and the medical capabilities needed to respond to it are all in place.

All the right measures, I'm confident, are being taken. And the right exercises are either -- the exercises are either being postponed or canceled completely.

STAFF: Megan Eckstein.

Q: Yes. Thank you very much.

A clarification first, and then a question for the both of you. You mentioned earlier that there was some modifications taking place to training events that are going forward, just to allow for social distancing. I wonder if you had any examples you could share.

And then for the both of you, I know that the Marine Corps is obviously going through some major efforts right now with the Integrated Naval FSA as well as the Force Design 2030 effort. And I wonder how those are being impacted whether it's, you know, an inability to do wargaming and simulation efforts or just, you know, challenges with budgeting folks teleworking, just any impacts that you might be seeing?

BERGER: I think in terms of training, I'm trying to think of a good -- kind of a visual example where you could picture it in your mind, but I would say on something like a pistol range, where all of us might be this close to each other, lined up on a pistol range on a detail, they'll spread them out now, just like we are in this room, and maybe run more relays than they would normally run to keep a spread between Marines where -- where they can.

If it's a live-fire exercise, okay, you can only do so much to moderate social distancing when you're moving down-range. So each type of training, commanders taking the measures they can that make sense. But also making sure that their units are ready, are trained and ready to go.

The second part of your question, on force design -- and I'll turn it over to the secretary, but no impact to that. That's -- we're not going to spend time talking about it today, but the quick answer is no impact to that planning that I know of. It's just a little harder to do electronically and it's distributed but not stopped, I don't think. You know, that's --

SEC. MODLY: No, as you know, Megan, that's a good question.

And we -- we've been pretty aggressive at trying to look at this over the last several months. And the deputy secretary is now leading an effort to look at the overall force structure, which we are participating in, obviously, as well as the new carrier study that I launched a couple weeks ago, as well as sort of looking at our 355-plus plan and how we're going to do all that. All that work is continuing. And actually a lot of that work sort of lends itself to it not having to be in the same place. So I think that's fine.

And the bigger concerns I have, sort of -- is sort of the budget development process. Because as you know, we do that well in advance. And I think we're still trying to get our arms around what are the impacts of this virus going to be in terms of readiness that we're going to have to make up. So I think that's the only thing. But, you know, we're working this all in real time and no one's stopped.

Q: Okay. I know all those efforts require, you know, heavy modeling and simulation efforts with some of the computer labs that are set up at DOD facilities. Can that still take place now?

SEC. MODLY: Well, that's going to be -- that's going to be the bigger part of the challenge, I think. You know, we're integrating with the War College on this as well. They're -- basically have all gone virtual right now, so we're going to have to think through how we do all that.

Q: Okay, thank you.

STAFF: -- Politico? Politico, Lara, are you there?

Q: Hi, sorry. Can you hear me?

STAFF: Yes.

Q: Okay, great. Thanks -- thanks for doing this.

I was wondering if you could tell me, the secretary earlier this morning in an interview, Reuters, was saying that he was going to -- the Pentagon's going to stop providing such granular information on the coronavirus.

I'm just wondering how this applies to the Navy. Are you still going to be giving us updates on the number of people who are getting tested on the ships, as you've currently been doing, and how many cases you've been having on the ships and in these -- these hotspots?

SEC. MODLY: Well, I think we're trying to be as responsive and transparent as possible in this. I think it's important that people understand where we are, how it's impacting us. But there - we have to balance that against operational concerns as well as privacy concerns.

So we're trying to develop the balance on that. It had been our policy not to really discuss where -- what ships were impacted, but obviously the information about the T.R. came out and we felt it was responsible for us to come out and give you all the straight story about what's happening there.

So we will follow the direction of the secretary of defense in terms of -- in terms of this, but from our -- from our perspective, from my perspective, being as transparent as possible is probably the best path.

STAFF: Jennifer?

Q: Secretary Modly, if I could follow up on what you said about tests on ships being available and labs on ship. I thought that we were told, 24 hours ago, that there weren't labs on ships, that they had to do the -- the testing, the swab testing and fly those off to labs on land. Has that changed?

And do you have the ability now, on all ships, to not only test -- you have enough swab kits -- but you also can put them through labs on board the ships?

SEC. MODLY: So, Jennifer, I think this is just --

MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MARINE CORPS REAR ADMIRAL JAMES HANCOCK: Sir, yes. Thank you for the question.

Yes, no, we -- we do fly them off and they go en masse. We're working with industry, really, to answer that question. We would like a point-of-care testing, as you know, as well as our civilian counterparts. But we're just not there yet. What we can do is do surveillance testing. So we do it across the ship, so we know that.

As you guys know -- Force Health Protection's not new to us. The coronavirus is a novel virus. Viruses are not novel to the Navy and the Marine Corps. We do this every day, that's the reason that we're being responsive to it. Thank you.

Q: But just to follow up, when you say that you're going to test all 5,000 people on board the Roosevelt, those will be swab tests or surveillance testing?

SEC. MODLY: It's going to be a -- let me answer this one, because I just had a -- a call with -- with our medical people on this. It's going to be a combination of whatever we have available for us to do that.

And my understanding, we'll have to get you a more precise answer to that question. I know the small ships don't have the ability to test on board. But it's my understanding that on the larger ships, we do have the ability to do some limited testing on board. But that --

Q: Limited, so are you short of test swabs on board something like the T.R. Roosevelt?

SEC. MODLY: T.R. has approximately 800 kits on board. We're flying more on there today as we speak. So, they will have more brought in to help solve this problem.

Q: Okay.

And, General Berger, just in terms of the barbershops being open, you're still bringing barbers from outside the bases into -- from civilian community into the Marine bases to cut hair. And is that really a good idea?

GEN. BERGER: It varies base to base, as the last week has shown, where they've going from health protection condition A to B to C. Now countrywide in C. It has -- it has varied base to base.

Is it a good idea? We keep the commissaries open, keep the exchanges open, keep as many functions as we can to support the families. And we are planning, though, like the other services are, to reach a point where they don't come to work, it's not safe to do so. And then we'll make adjustments.

STAFF: Sylvie, you'll get the last question with AFP.

Q: Hello. Thank you. This is Sylvie Lanteaume from AFP.

I -- I understand -- this is a question for the secretary.

I understand the Mercy is scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles on Friday. What about Comfort? Where do you expect it to arrive in New York?

SEC. MODLY: Well, we've -- we've -- thanks for the question.

We've accelerated the plan for Comfort. We had been originally been looking at April 3rd, but in all likelihood she's going to be getting underway this weekend. So hopefully she'll be there in New York by the early part of next week.

Q: Monday? Tuesday?

SEC. MODLY: Yeah, I'd rather not give a firm date on that. So -- but, we're -- I'm actually going to be going down there to the ship either tomorrow or Saturday. So sometime after that she'll be leaving.

And it will all depend on her transit time and how well she's functioning on the -- on the -- on the route up there, but I would say within a couple days of that.

Q: Can I ask one clarification on your response on the testing aboard the Roosevelt?

So, does the Roosevelt have the ability to process the tests or are those tests being flown off? I'm -- I was confused by the initial response and then the clarification.

SEC. MODLY: So -- so what was explained to me this morning is that there is some limited ability to do testing on the ship itself.

Q: To process -- to not only swab, but process them?

SEC. MODLY: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Q: Okay.

And then can you tell us how -- you said several more sailors had tested positive or were being -- can you give us a number, how many there were?

SEC. MODLY: There were three initial. There were five more that were flown off the ship or in the process of being flown off the ship. And then there are several others that are in isolation right now.

But as I said, the ship is going to be pulling into Guam and then they're going to figure out from there who needs to come off, who needs to -- who can stay on, looking at the level of symptoms and things like that.

STAFF: Any final remarks --

Q: Guam was where the initial sailors were or -- because you all -- you all were a little, sort of, hesitant about saying initially where they went. But it -- it was actually Guam, right?

SEC. MODLY: That's where the ship is going. So, yes.

STAFF: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

Q: Thank you.

Subscribe to Defense.gov Products

Choose which Defense.gov products you want delivered to your inbox.

SUBSCRIBE

(b) (6)

LCDR USN VCNO (USA)

From: Love, Robert E SES (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:52 PM
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN DNS (USA)
Cc: Spedero, Paul C Jr RDML USN USFFC (USA)
Subject: FW: Support Requirements

FYSA

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Love, Robert E SES (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Date: Monday, Mar 30, 2020, 7:47 AM
To: Haeuptle, Andrew S SES USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: Support Requirements

I spoke to the skipper yesterday. He seemed like he needed help finding billeting for his sailors...still had 4,000 on board.

From: Haeuptle, Andrew S SES USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Love, Robert E SES (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil
Cc: Deal, Steven E SES USN (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN UNSECNAV DC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; 'Gillingham, Bruce L RADM USN CNO (USA)' <(b) (6)@mail.mil>
Subject: RE: Support Requirements

Bob,
PACFLT has a full court press on support to TR. Working with MARFOR PAC, III MEF and other partners.
Andy

From: Love, Robert E SES (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 7:35 AM
To: (b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil
Cc: Deal, Steven E SES USN (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN UNSECNAV DC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; 'Gillingham, Bruce L RADM USN CNO (USA)' <(b) (6)@mail.mil>; Haeuptle, Andrew S SES USN DNS (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: Support Requirements

CAPT Crozier,

Thanks for taking time to talk yesterday. We have decided not to visit TR so you can continue to focus on the health and welfare of your sailors.

What support do you need? Are you still looking for billeting? What else?
How many people have you tested, so far?

I'll call you later today.

V,

Robert E. Love
Chief of Staff
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000
(o) (b) (6)
SIPR: (b) (6) @navy.smil.mil

"Don't Give Up the Ship"

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - PRIVACY SENSITIVE~~ - This e-mail, including any accompanying documents or attachments, is confidential and ~~for official use only~~. It is intended only for the named recipient(s) and may contain information that is ~~privacy sensitive~~. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of ~~privacy sensitive~~ information may result in civil and/or criminal penalties. The Privacy Act of 1974 (as amended) (5 U.S.C. 552a) and SECNAVINST 5211.5 apply. If you have received this message in error or are not the named recipient(s), please immediately notify the sender and delete this message from your computer.

From: (b) (6) [CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt](#)
To: (b) (6) [CAPT USN VCNO \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Memo for Record - Failure to comply with NAVADMIN 083_20
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:40:45 PM
Attachments: [NAVADMIN 083_20.pdf](#)

(b) (6),

I will forward you the emails/reports I discussed with the VCNO. These build a timeline.

They should arrive in sequence. Trying to avoid the CANES firewall monster. First one below:

V/R

(b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
Cc: (b) (6) CMC USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
Subject: Memo for Record - Failure to comply with NAVADMIN 083_20

Captain,

I know we have discussed this several times and we are in agreement but I want to put some of our discussions in writing.

Despite our best efforts to attempt to comply with the intent of NAVADMIN 083/20 aboard ship, we are not in compliance with the direction given. Specifically, we are NOT using the definition of close contact appropriately IAW the guidance. Based on current numbers of COVID-19 positive sailors on board, over 1400 Sailors have had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19. This number is conservative as it only accounts for shared berthing and does not take into consideration watch stations, mess deck contact, shared workspace or personal time. One could make a valid argument that the true number of "Close Contact" Sailors is well over 2,000.

Per the NAVADMIN, "personnel in close contact must remain at home or in a comparable setting for 14 days from the day of departure of contact. For transient personnel and those residing in close quarters such as unaccompanied housing OR SHIPS, temporary lodging meeting CDC guidance or SEPARATE SLEEPING AND BATHROOM FACILITIES SHALL be arranged, when available." While we were underway, we could not reasonably comply with this guidance. We attempted to segregate sailors who should be quarantined in separate sleeping facilities (single room) in open bay berthing. Although our open bay berthing on board does not meet CDC guidance, it was our only option. We are now in port in Guam. We should be moving as many Sailors as possible off the ship into separate lodging. Our continued use of group berthing in port, both on the ship and off (NB Guam Gym, etc) is not in compliance with the NAVADMIN nor CDC guidance. In fact, based on numbers gathered by our Emergency Command Center, our segregated berthing plan is making the rate of transfer worse (You have these numbers) .

I have attached a copy of the NAVADMIN and request we attempt to comply with our responsibilities in paragraph 5. I know you are working closely with higher headquarter to find an executable solution. What we are doing now is not working. In fact, data supports our efforts are only making the problem worse. Recommend ending segregated berthing on board the ship and declaring the entire crew and embarked staff as "Close Contact." We should allow Sailors to return to their assigned berthing after cleaning. We should move as many Sailors as we can to CDC compliant off ship berthing as soon as possible.

Very Respectfully,

CAPT (b) (6), USN

Executive Officer

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

In Port: (b) (6)

At Sea: (b) (6)

Cell: (b) (6)

Jdial: (b) (6)

-----OFFICIAL INFORMATION DISPATCH FOLLOWS-----
RTTUZYUW RHOIAA0001 0832050-UUUU--RHSSUU.

ZNR UUUUU

R 231957Z MAR 20 MID110000511164U

FM CNO WASHINGTON DC

TO NAVADMIN

BT

UNCLAS

NAVADMIN 083/20

MSGID/NAVADMIN/CNIC WASHINGTON DC/N00/MAR//

SUBJ/RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT (ROM) GUIDANCE//

REF/A/DOC/USD/11MAR20//

REF/B/NAVADMIN/OPNAV/212007ZMAR20//

REF/C/DOC/BUMED/17MAR20//

NARR/REF A IS UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MEMO, FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION

GUIDANCE (SUPPLEMENT 4) - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GUIDANCE FOR PERSONNEL TRAVEL DURING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK.

REF B IS NAVADMIN 080/20, NAVY MITIGATION MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK UPDATE 3. REF C IS BUMED RETURN TO WORK GUIDELINES FOR CORONAVIRUS.//

RMKS/1. REF A requires that personnel returning from a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Health Notice (THN) Level 3 or Level 2 location perform a 14 day restriction of movement (ROM). During ROM, Service Members should be restricted to their residence or other appropriate Domicile and limit close contact (within 6 feet or 2 meters) with others. This NAVADMIN clarifies the definition of ROM, provides amplifying guidance, and delineates responsibilities for execution of ROM.

2. Definitions.

2.a. **Restriction of Movement (ROM).** General DoD term referring to the limitation of personal liberty for the purpose of ensuring health, safety and welfare. ROM is inclusive of quarantine and isolation.

2.a.(1) **Quarantine.** Medical term referring to the separation of personnel from others as a result of suspected exposure to a communicable disease. For the world-wide COVID-19 epidemic, this should be imposed on those with no COVID-19 symptoms who have either recently returned from a high-risk location (CDC THN Level 2 or 3), or have had close contact with a known COVID-19 positive patient. The current recommended quarantine period is 14 days. Per CDC, quarantine generally means the separation of a person or group of people reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic, from others who have not been so exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease.

2.a.(2) **Isolation.** Medical term referring to the separation of personnel from others due either to the development of potential COVID-19 symptoms or as a result of a positive COVID-19 test. Per CDC, isolation means the separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious from those who are not infected to prevent spread of the communicable disease. Isolation for public health purposes may be voluntary or compelled by federal, state, or local public health order.

2.b. **Patient (or Person) Under Investigation (PUI).** In the case of COVID-19, a PUI is defined as an individual with either a pending COVID-19 test or for whom a test would have been ordered/conducted had one been available.

2.c. **Self-monitoring.** Per CDC, self-monitoring means people should monitor themselves for fever by taking their temperatures twice a day and remaining alert for the onset of a cough or difficulty breathing. If an individual feels feverish or develops a measured fever, cough, or difficulty breathing

during the self-monitoring period, they should self-isolate, limit contact with others, and seek advice by telephone from a healthcare provider or their local health department to determine whether further medical evaluation is needed.

2.d. **Close Contact.** Per CDC, a close contact is defined as:

2.d.(1) Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; the current recommended threshold is 10 minutes. Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case, or

2.d.(2) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on).

3. Applicability. **ROM applies to all Service Members, who in the last 14 days have either been in:**

3.a. An area with ongoing spread of COVID-19 as defined as CDC designated Level 2 and 3 countries ([https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travelnotices.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travelnotices.html)), or

3.b. Close contact with a person known to have COVID-19.

3.c. Per REF A, it is strongly recommended that DoD civilian employees, contractor personnel and dependents also follow this guidance.

4. Guidance.

4.a. ROM personnel shall be directed to remain at home or in a comparable setting for 14 days ROM from the day of departure or contact. For transient personnel and those residing in close quarters such as unaccompanied housing or ships, temporary lodging meeting CDC guidance of separate sleeping and bathroom facilities shall be arranged, when available.

4.b. When in ROM, personnel shall avoid congregate settings, limit close contact with people and pets or other animals to the greatest extent possible, avoid traveling, self-monitor, and seek immediate medical care if symptoms (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) develop.

4.c. Personnel assigned ROM may exit quarters to access laundry facilities, outdoor exercise, and designated smoking areas; and conduct other routine tasks not in a public setting provided they maintain social distancing greater than 6 feet from others. Access to messing facilities, stores, fitness centers and other widely used support services is prohibited.

4.d. For temporary lodging, normal room cleaning services will be suspended during the ROM period.

4.e. For personnel executing ROM in private residence, coordinate with parent command for the purchase of required food/hygiene items or arrange delivery through other means.

4.f. After completion of ROM, return to work per REF C and Combatant Commander guidance, if applicable.

5. Responsibilities.

5.a. Parent command **Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge shall:**

5.a.(1) Ensure screening of personnel for ROM.

5.a.(2) Ensure ROM personnel comply with paragraph 4.

5.a.(3) If temporary lodging is required:

5.a.(3)A. **Provide cost orders for ROM personnel.** Orders will direct the Service Member to a ROM status and not TAD to the host installation. Recommend funding for temporary lodging, if required, be obtained through the Type Commander. This may be accomplished utilizing a General Terms and Conditions document to avoid issues arising from Service Members not having government travel cards.

5.a.(3)B. **Coordinate with installation Commanding Officer for room assignment.** It is imperative that tenant commands inform installations of all personnel in ROM within government facilities (to include barracks, NGIS, Navy Lodge, PPV family housing, and PPV barracks).

5.a.(3)C. As needed, **coordinate messing support with the Commanding Officer where a galley is available.** Arrangements will be made between the parent command and the installation for the delivery of meals to Service Members in a ROM status.

5.a.(3)D. As required, provide daily support to ROM personnel to ensure meal delivery as well as health and comfort checks.

5.A.(3)E. Ensure personnel supporting individuals in ROM are trained on the status of ROM personnel and associated interaction protocols. Close contact is prohibited. PPE is not required.

5.a.(4) If private residence is utilized, coordinate with ROM personnel to ensure all messing needs are met.

5.b. Installation Commanding Officers shall:

5.b.(1) Account daily for available temporary lodging to support ROM.

5.b.(2) Track all ROM personnel residing in Navy Lodging (unaccompanied housing, NGIS, Navy Lodge, PPV family housing, PPV barracks) both on and off installation. There is no need for installations to track tenant personnel in a ROM status in private residence/lodging.

5.b.(3) **Provide detailed instructions to tenant commands who require temporary ROM lodging support.**

5.b.(4) If available, coordinate with parent commands to provide take -out meals for delivery to ROM personnel.

5.b.(5) Ensure temporary lodging staff are trained on the status of ROM personnel and associated interaction protocols. Close contact is prohibited. PPE is not required.

5.b.(6) Follow CDC guidance for cleaning rooms following the ROM period. Ensure the standards are the same across all facilities (unaccompanied housing, NGIS, Navy Lodge).

5.b.(7) For the safety of lodging personnel, ensure clear discrete procedures are in place to identify rooms which are occupied by ROM personnel.

5.b.(8) Ensure fire and emergency services are aware of ROM personnel locations, particularly those in isolation, and are prepared to respond to medical emergencies with appropriate PPE.

6. Entitlements. Per REF B.

7. Reporting Requirements. Per REF B.

8. ROM FAQs.

Question 1. When placed on Restriction of Movement (ROM), can I travel to locations within the fence line of an installation to utilize facilities such as the NEX food court or the gym?

Answer 1. No, during the duration of ROM, Service Members must remain in their rooms with the exception of brief trips to utilize designated smoking areas, walking in the immediate vicinity of the building (usually within 100 feet), and limiting close contact (within 6 feet) with others. If your facility contains an in house gym, do not use it.

Question 2. Can I accept food deliveries from various services?

Answer 2. Yes, food must be placed outside the room. Minimize close contact (within 6 feet).

Question 3. Can my family or friends visit me?

Answer 3. Yes, provided they do not enter your room. Conversations should be held with visitors staying in the passageway outside the room and Service Members in their room. Minimize close contact (within 6 feet).

Question 4. Can I do my laundry?

Answer 4. Yes, but you should coordinate with your command to utilize in house laundry facilities.

Question 5. How do I obtain personal hygiene items?

Answer 5. Utilize the point of contact provided by your command to arrange for purchase of these items.

Question 6. Will my room be cleaned daily?

Answer 6. No, your room will not be cleaned during your stay. Trash pickup is available by placing your trash can in the passageway.

Question 7. Is Personal Protective Equipment required for personnel in my vicinity?

Answer 7. No, you should limit close contact (within 6 feet) with others.

Question 8. Can I ROM in open bay barracks or in rooms with shared bathrooms?

Answer 8. No, individuals should be placed in separate lodging (when available).

Question 9. Can I use public transportation if in ROM status?

Answer 9. No, individuals on ROM should avoid crowds and public locations.

Question 10. Can I get off ROM early if I was in close contact to a person with COVID-19, and I feel like I am not sick?

Answer 10. No, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends 14 days of ROM from the last date of exposure to a COVID-19 positive person.

Question 11. What is the difference between quarantine and restriction of movement (ROM)?

Answer 11. Quarantine is a legal public health term used for civilian restrictions and ROM is a military term being used to identify military individuals who are restricted in their movement, generally to their residence.

Question 12. Are my family members at risk if I ROM at home with them?

Answer 12. ROM status is a precautionary step to prevent spread to others. Considering this, it is recommended that while at home in a ROM status, you practice social distancing. This means try to remain at least 6 feet from other persons, avoid using the same bathroom, or sleeping in the same bed.

Question 13. Can I prepare meals for my family while on ROM?

Answer 13. When in a ROM status, it is recommended you not prepare meals for your family because the virus is spread through respiratory droplets that can land on surfaces such as food. Ideally, you should have other individuals prepare food. If you are the only care giver, make sure you are washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds for general food safety. Make sure you cover your nose and mouth when coughing and wash your hands after using the bathroom.

Question 14. Should I be wearing a mask?

Answer 14. Masks will not protect you from inhaling the virus. The virus is very small and can make its way through and around the mask. The best way to prevent being infected or infecting others is to practice social distancing and good hygiene techniques (such as washing your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching your face, avoid sick persons, etc).

Question 15. Do I need to clean my house to CDC standards?

Answer 15. It is recommended you maintain a clean living environment as you normally would. This includes frequent hand washing, washing clothing and bedding, and wiping down frequently touched

surfaces with a sanitizing wipe or any cleaning product that contains at least 10 percent bleach. The Environmental Protection Agency has a list of products that have been specifically tested as effective in sanitizing surfaces.

9. Released by Vice Admiral M. M. Jackson, Commander, Navy Installations Command.//

BT

#0001

NNNN

V/r,

CNRSW ROC

com: (b) (6)

fax: (b) (6)

NIPR: (b) (6)@navy.mil

SIPR: (b) (6)@navy.smil.mil

Privacy Act - 1974 This E-Mail may contain information to be protected IAW DoD 5400.11R and is ~~For Official Use Only.~~

Warning: This is an information report. It is being shared for informational purposes but has not been fully evaluated, integrated with other information or analyzed. Receiving persons and agencies are cautioned not to take actions based solely on this report unless the information is independently verified.

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@cybercom.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:06 AM

To: (b) (6) CAPT USN NAVY JAG WASH DC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Cc: Spedero, Paul C Jr RDML USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CIV USN COMNAVSAFECEN
NOR VA (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: TR INVESTIGATION

(b) (6),

Good morning. This is to the best of my recollection as the events unfolded without the use of a calendar and specific meetings, dates and times.

During that time, when the office of the CNO was informed that the SecNav/A was calling the ship, which I found out from COS Love after his initial calls over the weekend to the TR, that COS Love had talked to CAPT Crozier personally and CAPT Crozier had not returned his call. The CNO made it clear to me that CAPT Crozier had leadership in his chain of command and that he wasn't going to call or believed that there was an immediate need for a call from the CNO to CAPT Crozier as they were dealing with the issues at hand of TR. CAPT Crozier had several layers of leadership before he needed a call from the CNO at this time...for example- 7th and PACFLEET leadership (Operational Chain of Command)...something to that fact from the CNO.

At no time did I contacted CAPT Crozier or the CCSG9 and told him to expect a call from the CNO. Nor did I ever reach out to PACFLEET and request a call via the CSG or 7th FLT to CAPT Crozier for a call with the CNO. After COS Love told me that he contacted the ship and expected a call back from CAPT Crozier, COS Love directed me to get in contact of TR and have CAPT Crozier return his call immediately, which apparently didn't happen. I did make calls to the Quarter Deck and CAPT Crozier's cell phone and I can't remember if I left a message or I am not sure if his phone received messages. I do remember getting a hold of either the watch floor at PACFLT or the CSG watch team directing them to get in contact with CAPT Crozier to have him return a phone call to COS Love. I do not remember when CAPT Crozier called him back.

To my knowledge, and I worked every day in the office of the CNO during COVID-19 during reduced manning, the CNO office never received a call from CAPT Crozier requesting a phone call with the CNO or from the CCSG-9 or anyone from CAPT Crozier's team requesting a call to the CNO.

Additionally, the CNO did not make any calls to personnel that had tested positive for COVID-19 from TR or the Navy at large and made it clear that he would we would only potentially make calls to personnel in hospitals and in the ICU...(meaning severe cases of COVID-19 or very sick service members) at which the Navy didn't have any at the time. Most people were positive and recovering at home...to the best of my memory right now other than civilian or contractor personnel working for the Navy.

From my seat, the CNO trusted the leadership in CAPT Crozier's Chain of Command to discuss the immediate issues of the ship with CAPT Crozier, however, the CNO was following the issues and reporting of the ship very closely. The CNO, as expected, had numerous phone calls with SecNav/A, VCNO, Navy SG, ADM Aquilino, and senior leadership wrt the TR status and health of the ship.

Standing by for questions and comments, and if you want to talk to me, my number is below.

V/R,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)
Deputy Director, J3 Future Operations
NSTS (b) (6)
Comm: (b) (6)
NIPR: (b) (6) @cybercom.mil
JWICS: (b) (6) @nsa.ic.gov

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN NAVY JAG WASH DC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:17 PM
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@cybercom.mil>
Cc: Spedero, Paul C Jr RDML USN USFFC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CIV USN COMNAVSAFECEN
NOR VA (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: TR INVESTIGATION

CAPT (b) (6),

Good afternoon.

I am a member of the VCNO-led TR investigation team. One of the things that the investigation team is trying to understand are any factors that may have contributed to CAPT Crozier's decision to send the e-mail that contained a letter which was later published. Shortly before CAPT Crozier sent the e-mail, it is the understanding of the investigation team that CAPT Crozier may have been expecting a call from the CNO – but the call did not occur for some reason.

Do you recall such a call being scheduled and, if so, do you recall the reason why it did not take place?

A response is requested by COB tomorrow, 20 May 2020. I am standing by if you have any questions or concern. Please, however, do not discuss the above question or your response with anyone other than a member of the investigation team.

V/R,
CAPT (b) (6)

CAPT (b) (6), JAGC, USN
Command Investigation Team Legal Advisor
Vice Chief of Naval Operations
O: (b) (6)
C: (b) (6)
Pentagon Room (b) (6)
Washington, DC 20350-1000

From: (b) (6) [LT USN DCNO N3N5 \(USA\)](#)
To: [BWC PTGN](#)
Cc: (b) (6) [LCDR USN CNO \(USA\)](#); (b) (6) [CAPT USN VCNO \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: Hot RFI.THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:12:30 AM

CDR (b) (6) ,

In receipt sir, thank you.

Very Respectfully,

LT (b) (6)
Flag Aide to VADM Phil Sawyer
Pentagon, Room (b) (6)
Desk: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
NIPR: (b) (6) @navy mil
SIPR: (b) (6) @navy.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: BWC PTGN <(b) (6) @navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:09 AM
To: (b) (6) LT USN DCNO N3N5 (USA) <(b) (6) @navy.mil>
Cc: (b) (6) LCDR USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6) @navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6) @navy mil>
Subject: FW: Hot RFI.THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

N3N5,

Phone number for THEODORE ROOSEVELT CO provided by Seventh Fleet:

CAPT Crozier
(b) (6)

I have not tested this number.

Very Respectfully,
CDR (b) (6) , USN
Battle Watch Captain
Navy Operations Center - Pentagon (b) (6)
(b) (6)
E-mail: (b) (6) @navy mil

-----Original Message-----

From: C7F ABWC <(b) (6) @lcc19.navy mil>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 07:47

To: BWC PTGN <(b) (6)@navy.mil>

Cc: C7F BWC <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, C7F
(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil; (b) (6) CAPT USN, C7F <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>;
CPF.CATBWC <(b) (6)@navy.mil>

Subject: RE: Hot RFI.THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

Sir,

CO's contact info:

CAPT Crozier

(b) (6) (POTS)

Very respectfully,

LTJG (b) (6)

Asst. Battle Watch Captain

U.S. Seventh Fleet

Unclassified (b) (6)@navy.mil

Classified (b) (6)@navy.smil.mil

Commercial (Underway) (b) (6)

Commercial (Homeport) (b) (6)

DSN (Underway) (b) (6)

DSN (Homeport) (b) (6)

Tandberg (b) (6)

VOSIP (b) (6)

J-Dial Extension (b) (6)

DRSN (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: BWC PTGN [mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 8:40 PM

To: C7F ABWC <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>

Cc: C7F BWC <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, C7F
<(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, C7F <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>;
CPF.CATBWC <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; C7F-CVN-COVID-CAT <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>

Subject: RE: Hot RFI.THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

ABWC,

We have a request from CNO's Office for a phone number for THEODORE ROOSEVELT's CO. Can you provide?

Very Respectfully,

CDR (b) (6), USN

Battle Watch Captain

Navy Operations Center - Pentagon (b) (6)

(b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6) @navy mil

From: C7F ABWC <(b) (6) @lcc19.navy mil>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 07:12

To: BWC PTGN <(b) (6) @navy mil>

Cc: C7F BWC <(b) (6) @lcc19 navy mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, C7F

<(b) (6) @lcc19 navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, C7F <(b) (6) @lcc19.navy mil>;

CPF.CATBWC <(b) (6) @navy mil>; C7F-CVN-COVID-CAT <(b) (6) @lcc19 navy.mil>

Subject: RE: Hot RFI.THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

Sir,

Response to your RFI is attached.

Standing by for questions or concerns.

Very respectfully,

LTJG (b) (6)

Asst. Battle Watch Captain

U.S. Seventh Fleet

Unclassified (b) (6) @navy mil

Classified (b) (6) @navy.smil.mil

Commercial (Underway) (b) (6)

Commercial (Homeport) (b) (6)

DSN (Underway) (b) (6)

DSN (Homeport) (b) (6)

Tandberg (b) (6)

VOSIP (b) (6)

J-Dial Extension (b) (6)

DRSN (b) (6)

From: BWC PTGN [mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 7:36 PM

To: C7F BWC <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>; C7F ABWC <(b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil>

Subject: FW: Hot RFI.THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

C7F BWC,

See below RFI from VCNO regarding first two sailors to contract COVID-19. Suspense 1130Z.

Thanks.

Very respectfully,

CAPT (b) (6), USN

Battle Watch Captain

Navy Operations Center - Pentagon (b) (6)

National Military Command Center (NMCC)

(b) (6)

RED - (b) (6)

NIPR: (b) (6)@navy.mil

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 06:28
To: (b) (6) <(b) (6)@fe.navy.mil>
Subject: Hot RFI. THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

(b) (6) -

In support of a White House prep session at 0800, VCNO needs details of Liberty for the two initial TR Sailors.

If the ship was in port 5-8 Mar, do we know what actual days those Sailors were on Liberty in Vietnam?

And, as I'm thinking through this... do we know if they were struggling with symptoms for a few days prior to reporting?

Any supporting/additional info would be great.

Folks trying to assess the merits of the 14 day ROM.

If Sailors in town only on 5 Mar and no symptoms until 21 Mar, then a longer ROM could be warranted.

BWC teaching out on the same in a few.

My thanks... will try to call in a bit.

VR (b) (6)

Sent from my handheld...

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil <[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@navy.mil](mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil)>
>

Date: Sunday, Mar 29, 2020, 5:42 PM

To: Burke, Robert P ADM USN VCNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil <[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@navy.mil](mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil)> >

Cc: Sawyer, Phillip G VADM USN (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil <[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@navy.mil](mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil)> >, (b) (6) CAPT USN DCNO N3N5 (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil <[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@navy.mil](mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil)> >

Subject: THEODORE ROOSEVELT RFI

Vice Chief – Below provided by BWC. Standing by if you need anything else.

VR (b) (6)

From: BWC PTGN <(b) (6)@navy.mil>

17 Jan – departed San Diego on deployment

5-8 March – Port visit Da Nang Vietnam

21 March – first two Sailors show symptoms

23 March - first two Sailors' tests return positive

Very Respectfully,

CDR (b) (6), USN

Battle Watch Captain

Navy Operations Center - Pentagon (b) (6)

(b) (6)

E-mail: (b) (6)@navy.mil

From: (b) (6) .CAPT USN CNO (USA)
To: BWC PTGN
Subject: RE: TR
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2020 8:37:14 PM

Thanks (b) (6) ...V/R (b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: BWC PTGN <(b) (6) @navy.mil>
Date: Sunday, Mar 29, 2020, 8:32 PM
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6) @navy.mil>
Subject: RE: TR

(b) (6),

Just in case the number you have did not work:

THEODORE ROOSEVELT CO: (b) (6)

CSG-9 BWC Number (Backup): (b) (6)

Very respectfully,

CAPT (b) (6), USN
Battle Watch Captain
Navy Operations Center - Pentagon (b) (6)
National Military Command Center (NMCC)
(b) (6)
RED - (b) (6)
NIPR: (b) (6) @navy.mil

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6) @navy.mil>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 20:14
To: BWC PTGN <(b) (6) @navy.mil>
Subject: RE: TR

We are good. COS has it.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: BWC PTGN <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Date: Sunday, Mar 29, 2020, 7:53 PM
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: TR

(b) (6),

Working it, waiting on a return call from PACFLT.

V/r,

CAPT (b) (6), USN
Battl
Navy Operations Center – Pentagon (b) (6)
(b) (6)
(b) (6)
1

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 19:34
To: BWC PTGN <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: FW: TR

BWC,
Please provide the number to the CNO of TR for the SN/A's office. His import cell might work too.

Thanks and V/R,
(b) (6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Love, Robert E SES (USA) (b) (6)@navy.mil>
Date: Sunday, Mar 29, 2020, 3:52 PM
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN CNO (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: TR

Do you have a phone number for the CO?

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

31 MARCH 2020

We are the physicians and medical professionals of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71). Our immediate and primary concern is the safety and well-being of our patients, the Sailors under our care. Our ship detected Novel Coronavirus on board approximately seven days ago; three days ago we docked at Naval Base Guam. We are at war with COVID-19 and we are losing. This letter is to make you aware of our situation and to ask for your help.

This is our current situation: the virus is spreading exponentially on the ship. We have over 75 positive cases and rising. We are attempting to transfer infected Sailors off the ship. We are attempting to isolate the close contacts of infected Sailors, but at this point every single individual on the ship is a close contact. We continue to eat in groups. We continue to sleep in open bays. We continue to use group bathrooms accommodating dozens of individuals. We continue to work in confined spaces. We continue to expose ourselves to the virus on a daily basis. The construction of the ship makes it impossible for us to practice social distancing. These concerns have been expressed to all levels of the chain of command, but we have yet to see any demonstrable action taken to get our patients to safety that is in accordance with CDC guidelines and NAVADMIN 083/20.

There is a high probability that USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT will experience fatalities as a result of COVID-19 and we expect them to be within 10 days of penning this letter. While we have received the support of U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, we expect to quickly overwhelm their limited resources. We expect to experience the well published case fatality rate of 0.5-1% for our age demographic if drastic action is not immediately taken. If this case fatality rate remains constant we stand the potential to have 50 or more fatal cases. We will not stand by while our fellow sailors continue to be exposed to this fatal virus.

The only solution to save the lives of our Sailors is to immediately get everyone off the ship into appropriate isolation or quarantine. There is no other option. The time has come for aggressive measures to be taken and we are asking for your help to save the lives of our patients.

As medical providers we have a moral responsibility to our patients. We will continue to fight this losing battle, but we are asking for your immediate support to help us win this war. Time is of the essence.

Our intent is to submit this letter to the public to demonstrate our concerns for the safety of our patients and your sailors.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6)

LCDR MC USN

Surgeon

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

MD

CAPT MC USN

Senior Medical Officer

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

MD

LCDR MC USN

Family Physician

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

(b) (6)

PT, DPT

(b) (6)

LT MSC USN

Physical Therapist

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

MD (b) (6)

LT MC USN

Flight Surgeon

CVW-11

**Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
Nurse**

On 9 May 2020 I was interviewed in connection with a command investigation concerning chain of command actions with regard to COVID-19 onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) via telephone.

What follows is a true and accurate representation of my statement for this investigation.

Witness Name: LT (b) (6) _____ Position: Nurse

Command: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Department/Division: Medical

Email: (b) (6) @cvn71.navy.mil (b) (6) _____ Phone(s): (b) (6) _____

The following statement is in response to questions I received via telephone interview on 9 May, 2020.

There were many precautionary measures we took on the ship to decrease the spread of viruses. We started the following additional measures the week after the first Guam port call, 5-10 February, due to increase in GI illness:

Signs placed around the ship on handwashing and using hand sanitizer, video played on site TV on how to prevent the spread of viruses, and information published in the Rough Rider. We also stationed personnel at the head of each galley line to ensure all personnel were using hand sanitizer.

Bleach-a-Palooza was started twice a week, Monday and Wednesday, on 17 February, 2020
Bleach-a-Palooza was changed to once a day on 10 March, 2020
Bleach-a-Palooza was changed to twice a day on 30 March, 2020
Bleach-a-Palooza was changed to three times a day on 1 May, 2020

Handwashing video was produced and played in the month of February 2020.

Current FAQ's on Coronavirus and prevention was included in the Pre-Vietnam port call video for the crew.

Information on disease prevention and/or COVID published in the Rough Rider on the following dates:
16 February 2020
15 and 29 March 2020
5, 19, and 26 April, 2020
6 and 10 May 2020

We had implemented strict screening of all incoming COD passengers starting 15 February, 2020. All personnel had daily symptom checks and if they reported symptoms they reported to Medical for temperature check and evaluation. Prior to pulling in to Da Nang, we were aware of what was going on overseas with the coronavirus and planned accordingly. We planned as if we would have positive cases and would conduct daily symptom screening on all personnel. Those that reported symptoms would report to medical for a temperature check and additional evaluation. The process of daily symptom screening of the entire crew started at the end of the port call. It was hard to believe the low

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Nurse

numbers being published from Vietnam prior to our port visit, as all of the countries surrounding Vietnam were having increased numbers. What was being reported was they had 16 previous cases and they had all recovered. During my time off the ship on liberty, many of the stores were closed with signs on them. I have a picture from 6 March, 2020 of a sign posted on a store that read "CLOSED (Temporarily) from March 1st 2020. Due to spread of Covid-19 infection. Stay healthy Thank you." This was the same with many other establishments. I was not on board the ship when there were reports that two British people had tested positive in the same hotel some of our sailors were staying in. All Sailors that had been staying in the hotel were brought back to the pier and quarantined until testing had been performed. After they all tested negative they were placed in quarantine berthing on board and received twice daily symptom and temperature checks.

We set up a tracking system after departing Da Nang that included a department muster form, where all sailors were asked the screening questions for symptoms. All Sailors that reported symptoms were sent to medical for further evaluation. The guidance at the time was a fever, plus ILI symptoms. Those individuals without a fever were evaluated and treated with medication to treat the symptoms.

We started receiving guidance from 7th Fleet on 30 January, 2020 on requirements for screening. There were many updates and changes to screening and requirements as the virus evolved. Starting mid-February, it seemed as if we were getting updates and changes several times a week, if not more.

After we left Vietnam, we set up a specific room that we would run ILI clinic out of so that we would have a separation from the rest of the Medical department. When we identified our first cases an additional area was quarantined off to make a COVID positive isolation and holding area. After the first case was identified the workload in Medical quadrupled and we were working about 18 hours a day to test and disposition the sailors. We were doing what we could to contain the virus, but we couldn't follow the guidance given due to the ship environment. We had to do the best we could with what we had. Due to the large number of positive cases and the large berthing's on the ship, we could not truly isolate anyone by themselves.

Medical was inundated with trying to test, treat, isolate, feed, and find berthing for positive sailors and their close contacts. The command set up an Emergency Command Center a few days in, to assist with managing the needs of the personnel. As far as the planning for the ship's arrival in Guam, I was not involved in the decision making, other than for the Medical department. Medical was recommending that all sailors would need to be placed in isolation or quarantine to stop the spread of the virus. Per guidance, as well as what we saw on the news, positive cases needed to be isolated immediately and close contacts quarantined separately.. We needed single berthing to stop the spread. My expectations on the arrival to Guam, was to have CDC compliant isolation and quarantine. We knew that Guam didn't want us off base because it was on the news and it filtered throughout the ship. When we first arrived in Guam, the current positive cases were moved to NGIS and after that filled up personnel were moved to houses with four to five people in them. The close contacts were moved into gyms or schools that did not have cots six feet apart. There was talk of barracks in Okinawa, but that fell through and we learned the information on the amount of barracks available was not correct. We had major concerns and fears of hospitalizations and mortalities, after hearing in the news of all the people who were dying and needed ventilators.

It seemed as if the leadership on the ship understood the severity of the situation and was on the same page, but I did not feel that we were being supported by 7th Fleet or PACFLT to help our sailors. After CAPT Corzier's letter was released to the public things started moving fast and we started getting what we needed to try and stop the spread and protect the sailors. I do not think this would

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Nurse

have been the case if the letter was not released. Within a few days we were getting people in to hotels and properly quarantined. Two days before we were moved to the hotels we had 1400-1500 close contacts.

From what I heard around the ship there were many COA's discussed about the best and safest plan of where to pull into port after we had our first case. I do believe that San Diego may have been one of them (strictly hearsay), but there were concerns about being out of MEDEVAC range for several days. I believe that going to our home port would have been easier and the better option as we would have had more to support our needs and not have to worry about the Guam government

SMO is the best boss I've ever had. He motivates people to do their best and is a very effective leader. He's transparent both with what's going on within medical, and with the ship as a whole. He's very supportive of the medical department and made sure we were taken care of.

CAPT Crozier was a great CO and he made it a point to get to know his crew. He cared about his crew and would do anything to protect them. About a month after he had arrived on board I overheard a few sailor's talking in the p-way and one of them said "I have been on this ship for four years, and the morale on the ship now is the best it has ever been".

As far as the letter that some personnel from the Medical department wrote, I agree with the goal of the letter and the need to get people off of the ship to stop the spread. I was also concerned about the health of our sailor's and that one or more would die if we did not do our best to get everyone in isolation and quarantine. I did not sign the letter as I felt that it would affect my career in the Navy. Even though we are always told to bring issues or concerns to the chain of command, I know that there is a good possibility you will still be penalized.

I swear (or affirm) that the information in the statement above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

(b) (6) [Redacted Signature]

(Witness' Signature)

(Date)

Time

**Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
Ship Surgeon**

On 9 May 2020 I was interviewed in connection with a command investigation concerning chain of command actions with regard to COVID-19 onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) via telephone.

What follows is a true and accurate representation of my statement for this investigation.

Witness Name: LCDR (b) (6) _____ Position: Ship Surgeon
Command: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Department/Division: Medical
Email Address: (b) (6) @cvn71.navy.mil Phone(s): (b) (6) _____

Prior to pulling into Da Nang, the Medical Department had developed and implemented a plan to screen all personnel going ashore or coming onboard the ship. We had measures in place including but not limited to: temperature screenings, "bleachapalooza", CCTV messages regarding proper hand hygiene, as well as announcements over the 1MC. As soon as the British nationals tested positive in Da Nang, Sailors who were identified as close contacts were immediately quarantined. As far as screening guidance, we followed guidelines published by the CDC. I was not made aware of any specific guidance passed down from the Navy. During our transit to Guam, there was no specific change in our battle rhythm. We continued to conduct ship-wide departmental screenings for possible COVID symptoms. Follow-up screenings were completed by the Medical Department.

Once we had our first positive case onboard, the Medical Department shifted all our efforts towards the management, mitigation and control of COVID-19. We accepted jobs outside our typical training and/or job responsibilities; these included but were not limited to: nasopharyngeal swabbing, complex data configuration and infectious disease containment. I personally screened individuals coming into Medical. As the virus continued to spread throughout the ship, it became apparent that it could not be effectively contained due to the nature of the living and working conditions on the ship. The data were constantly changing; recommendations regarding treatments, isolation duration, viral properties and even infectious presentation were fluid throughout this process. The variability of the data and contagious nature and clinical course of the virus during this time left the TR in a vulnerable situation, as we found it to be impossible to meet the guidance produced by the governing bodies while on TR.

Once we arrived in Guam, we continued our attempt to follow CDC guidance regarding quarantine and isolation despite the challenges inherent to the ship board environment. I was not made aware of any structured plan to get Sailors off the ship and into appropriate isolation or quarantine spaces upon our arrival to Guam. Given the limited capabilities of Naval Hospital Guam and the size of our crew, I considered the strong possibility that, unless the virus is immediately contained, we might overwhelm the facilities on Guam. As the

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Ship Surgeon

ship's surgeon and the only person onboard with sufficient critical care experience, I would have specifically benefitted from direct guidance from Navy leadership regarding the management and mitigation of personnel on an aircraft carrier infected with COVID-19. This guidance would have addressed the unique characteristics of an aircraft carrier; however, I was not made aware of any such guidance. The Medical Department made collective decisions utilizing all available resources, including, but not limited to, the Navy Marine Corps Public Health Office, the CDC and published peer-reviewed literature.

I cannot speak to any plan to return the ship to San Diego. I recall a Line plan directed at the immediate quarantining of Sailors off the ship, who were deemed critical to the function of the ship and were presumed to be COVID-19 free. These individuals were moved onto Naval Base Guam, some eventually contracted COVID-19. As for the movement of COVID-19 positive Sailors, I was aware of Sailors going to the Navy Gateway Inns and Suites, though I was not made aware of the specifics and the transportation plan. Had there been timely and appropriate guidance from leadership outside the TR, emphasizing appropriate isolation and quarantine of all Sailors, I believe the TR could have improved its overall response.

SMO is an excellent leader. He was an open and an effective communicator. I personally had no communication with leadership outside of the TR, including but not limited to 7th Fleet or PACFLEET. I understand that SMO communicated with the COC outside the TR regarding our inability to adhere to Navy and CDC guidance for the management and mitigation of COVID-19.

The impetus for drafting the letter of concern, signed by members of the Medical Department, was the health and safety of the Sailors. The signatories understood that, based on the currently available, peer-reviewed medical data, some individuals would develop severe symptoms on or about 10 days following the onset of symptoms. Upon signing the letter, the TR was seven days past the first symptoms reported by one COVID + Sailor; there was no tangible plan in place to get the significant majority of Sailors off the ship and into the appropriate quarantine or isolation spaces at that time. Even with the understanding that there were no severe cases onboard at that time, we were concerned that if a plan did not rapidly materialize, the TR crew stood the chance to suffer increased morbidity and mortality. Our intent was to submit this letter to our chain of command to generate the needed aggressive action to protect the health and safety of our Sailors. The signatories met with CAPT Crozier and physically handed him the letter. CAPT Crozier stated he had a meeting with SECNAV the following day and would express our concerns to him. CAPT Crozier recommended we not submit our letter to the public domain.

As a medical professional, I would have recommended we return to our homeport (San Diego), which has more medical capabilities and available infrastructure to support the crew of the TR. I was never made aware of any plan that included our return to homeport.

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Ship Surgeon

(b) (6)

ment above accurately reflects my recollection of the

(b) (6)

18MAR2020

1345

(Date)

Time

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) [CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt](#)
To: (b) (6) [CAPT USN VCNO \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: TR request for assistance
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:53:37 PM

Response from CNAF.

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA)
[\[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@navy.mil\]](mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil)
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; Aquilino, John C ADM USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA); Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9; (b) (6)@lcc19.navy.mil; Menoni, John RDML Commander, Joint Region Marianas
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 DCAG; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN COMNAVAIRPAC (USA); Conn, Scott D VADM USN (USA)
Subject: RE: TR request for assistance

Chopper - thank you for the red flare. I've added C7F and COMNAVMARIANAS to this reply as we'll escalate work on behalf of your team immediately.
MTF - Bullet

-----Original Message-----

From: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
<(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 8:48 PM
To: Aquilino, John C ADM USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) (b) (6)@navy.mil>; Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9 <(b) (6)@ccsg9.navy.mil>
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN CVN-71 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 DCAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMDESRON 23 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMNAVAIRPAC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: TR request for assistance

Fellow Naval Aviators,

It is with the utmost respect that I write to you requesting assistance. I consider all of you incredible leaders and I'd gladly follow you into battle whenever needed.

While I know there are many folks working hard to assist the TR as we attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 onboard, all efforts to date have been inadequate and are unnecessarily putting Sailors lives at risk. I am no longer confident that normal staffing processes will work, and I believe

we need decisive action now.

Make no mistake about it, if required we could get everyone back onboard, set sail, and be ready to fight and beat any adversary that dares challenge the US or our allies. The virus would certainly have an impact, but in combat we are willing to take certain risks that are not acceptable in peacetime. I told the SECNAV's office the same, and will repeat to the CNO if he calls today.

However, our current effort efforts to contain the virus and treat the symptoms while pierside here in Guam are inadequate. By COB on 30 Mar, TR will have over 20% of the crew ashore in 'quarantine areas' (open bay gyms) or 'isolation' rooms (NGIS rooms with shared heads) onboard Naval Base Guam. These facilities are inadequate to contain the virus and we're already seeing new positive cases from those residing at gyms with more likely to follow. Based on the contact tracing of the 53+ CV positive TR Sailors to date, over 50% of those still onboard (over 2,000) can be considered close contact - the real number is closer to the 4,000 still onboard due the close proximity of the entire crew on a CVN.

The current situation is not ideal, and will only get better once we can isolate the crew off ship in true isolation rooms with separate bathroom facilities. A CVN does not provide the necessary space to allow for ROM separation IAW NAVADMIN 083 or CDC guidance with the majority of the crew embarked. The Diamond Princess Cruise Ship example demonstrates that the only way they were able to stop the spread was to remove everyone off the ship. Considering that they already had some ability to quarantine onboard with individual guest rooms, we should be extremely concerned with the virus spread on a CVN.

I need approximately 500 Sailors to remain onboard to continue to operate a Rx plant, man normal watches to support minimal operations (C2, IET, etc..), and maintain aircraft readiness. Naval Base Guam is doing the best they can, but they do not have adequate facilities and we can't wait much longer for off island lodging to become available as our cases continue to increase. While I understand that there are political concerns with requesting the use of hotels on Guam to truly isolate the remaining 4,500 Sailors for 14+ days, the hotels are empty, and I believe it is the only way to quickly combat this problem. Keeping Sailors local also allows me to maintain the warfighting capability needed should the balloon go up. The alternatives are to let this ride out, hope for the best, and pray we don't lose Sailors to this invisible enemy. Naval Aviation is better than that, and we owe it to the thousands of Sailors onboard, and those outside watching, to take decisive action now.

I fully realize that I bear responsibility for not demanding more decisive action the moment we pulled in, but at this point my only priority is the continued well-being of the crew and embarked staff. As you know, the accountability of a Commanding Officer is absolute, and I believe if there is ever a time to ask for help it is now regardless of the impact on my career.

Vr,
Chopper

CAPT Brett E. Crozier
Commanding Officer

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
To: (b) (6) CAPT USN VCNO (USA)
Subject: RE: TR request for assistance
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:55:46 PM

Response from CPF.

-----Original Message-----

From: Aquilino, John C ADM USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) [mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:38 PM
To: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA); Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt;
(b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 DCAG; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6)
(b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (b) (6)
(USA); (b) (6) CAPT USN COMNAVAIRPAC (USA)
Subject: RE: TR request for assistance

Studs - you and Chopper call me ASAP

V/R
Lung

ADM Chris "Lung" Aquilino
Commander, US Pacific Fleet

From: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>
Date: Sunday, Mar 29, 2020, 5:48 PM
To: Aquilino, John C ADM USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>, Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>, Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9 <(b) (6)@ccsg9.navy.mil>
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>, (b) (6) CAPT USN CVN-71 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>, (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 DCAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>, (b) (6) CAPT USN COMDESRON 23 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>, (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>, (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>, (b) (6) CAPT USN COMNAVAIRPAC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: TR request for assistance

Fellow Naval Aviators,

It is with the utmost respect that I write to you requesting assistance. I consider all of you incredible leaders and I'd gladly follow you into battle whenever needed.

While I know there are many folks working hard to assist the TR as we attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 onboard, all efforts to date have been inadequate and are unnecessarily putting Sailors lives at risk. I am no longer confident that normal staffing processes will work, and I believe we need decisive action now.

Make no mistake about it, if required we could get everyone back onboard, set sail, and be ready to fight and beat any adversary that dares challenge the US or our allies. The virus would certainly have an impact, but in combat we are willing to take certain risks that are not acceptable in peacetime. I told the SECNAV's office the same, and will repeat to the CNO if he calls today.

However, our current effort efforts to contain the virus and treat the symptoms while pierside here in Guam are inadequate. By COB on 30 Mar, TR will have over 20% of the crew ashore in 'quarantine areas' (open bay gyms) or 'isolation' rooms (NGIS rooms with shared heads) onboard Naval Base Guam. These facilities are inadequate to contain the virus and we're already seeing new positive cases from those residing at gyms with more likely to follow. Based on the contact tracing of the 53+ CV positive TR Sailors to date, over 50% of those still onboard (over 2,000) can be considered close contact - the real number is closer to the 4,000 still onboard due the close proximity of the entire crew on a CVN.

The current situation is not ideal, and will only get better once we can isolate the crew off ship in true isolation rooms with separate bathroom

facilities. A CVN does not provide the necessary space to allow for ROM separation IAW NAVADMIN 083 or CDC guidance with the majority of the crew embarked. The Diamond Princess Cruise Ship example demonstrates that the only way they were able to stop the spread was to remove everyone off the ship. Considering that they already had some ability to quarantine onboard with individual guest rooms, we should be extremely concerned with the virus spread on a CVN.

I need approximately 500 Sailors to remain onboard to continue to operate a Rx plant, man normal watches to support minimal operations (C2, IET, etc..), and maintain aircraft readiness. Naval Base Guam is doing the best they can, but they do not have adequate facilities and we can't wait much longer for off island lodging to become available as our cases continue to increase. While I understand that there are political concerns with requesting the use of hotels on Guam to truly isolate the remaining 4,500 Sailors for 14+ days, the hotels are empty, and I believe it is the only way to quickly combat this problem. Keeping Sailors local also allows me to maintain the warfighting capability needed should the balloon go up. The alternatives are to let this ride out, hope for the best, and pray we don't lose Sailors to this invisible enemy. Naval Aviation is better than that, and we owe it to the thousands of Sailors onboard, and those outside watching, to take decisive action now.

I fully realize that I bear responsibility for not demanding more decisive action the moment we pulled in, but at this point my only priority is the continued well-being of the crew and embarked staff. As you know, the accountability of a Commanding Officer is absolute, and I believe if there

is ever a time to ask for help it is now regardless of the impact on my career.

Vr,

Chopper

CAPT Brett E. Crozier

Commanding Officer

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

From: (b) (6) [CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt](#)
To: (b) (6) [CAPT USN VCNO \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: TR request for assistance
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:54:17 PM

Response from COMNAVMAR.

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) @fe.navy.mil [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@fe.navy.mil](mailto:(b) (6)@fe.navy.mil)]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 DCAG; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt; (b) (6) @navy.mil; (b) (6) @navy.mil; Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9; (b) (6) @lcc19.navy.mil
Subject: RE: TR request for assistance

Chopper,

JRM, NBG and AAFB are ready to continue to support/house what we can within our fence lines as well as transport Sailors to AAFB FFT off island should that be the COA selected.

I am also working the local solution to lodging outside the fence line but I am treading lightly as that solution will be in direct opposition to the stated Navy position not to place the burden on Guam's resources to solve our issue.

Please continue to let us know real time what you need and we will get after it.

Very respectfully,

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA) [[mailto:\(b\) \(6\)@navy.mil](mailto:(b) (6)@navy.mil)]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; Aquilino, John C ADM USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9 <(b) (6)@ccsg9.navy.mil>; (b) (6) @lcc19.navy.mil; Menoni, John V RDML USN JRM <(b) (6)@fe.navy.mil>
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN CVN-71 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 DCAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMDESRON 23 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN COMNAVAIRPAC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; Conn, Scott D VADM USN (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: TR request for assistance

Chopper - thank you for the red flare. I've added C7F and COMNAVMARIANAS to this reply as we'll escalate work on behalf of your team immediately.
MTF - Bullet

-----Original Message-----

From: Crozier, Brett E CAPT USN, USS Theodore Roosevelt
<(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 8:48 PM
To: Aquilino, John C ADM USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA)
<(b) (6)@navy.mil>; Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA
(USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; Baker, Stuart P RDML USN, CCSG-9
<(b) (6)@ccsg9.navy.mil>
Cc: (b) (6) CAPT USN, CVW-11 CAG
<(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN
CVN-71 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN,
CVW-11 DCAG <(b) (6)@cvw11.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN
COMDESRON 23 (USA) <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT USN,
USS Theodore Roosevelt <(b) (6)@cvn71.navy.mil>; (b) (6) CAPT
USN COMPACFLT PEARL HI (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>; (b) (6)
CAPT USN COMNAVAIRPAC (USA) <(b) (6)@navy.mil>
Subject: TR request for assistance

Fellow Naval Aviators,

It is with the utmost respect that I write to you requesting assistance. I consider all of you incredible leaders and I'd gladly follow you into battle whenever needed.

While I know there are many folks working hard to assist the TR as we attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 onboard, all efforts to date have been inadequate and are unnecessarily putting Sailors lives at risk. I am no longer confident that normal staffing processes will work, and I believe we need decisive action now.

Make no mistake about it, if required we could get everyone back onboard, set sail, and be ready to fight and beat any adversary that dares challenge the US or our allies. The virus would certainly have an impact, but in combat we are willing to take certain risks that are not acceptable in peacetime. I told the SECNAV's office the same, and will repeat to the CNO if he calls today.

However, our current effort efforts to contain the virus and treat the symptoms while pierside here in Guam are inadequate. By COB on 30 Mar, TR will have over 20% of the crew ashore in 'quarantine areas' (open bay gyms) or 'isolation' rooms (NGIS rooms with shared heads) onboard Naval Base Guam. These facilities are inadequate to contain the virus and we're already seeing new positive cases from those residing at gyms with more likely to follow. Based on the contact tracing of the 53+ CV positive TR Sailors to date, over 50% of those still onboard (over 2,000) can be considered close contact - the real number is closer to the 4,000 still onboard due the close proximity of the entire crew on a CVN.

The current situation is not ideal, and will only get better once we can isolate the crew off ship in true isolation rooms with separate bathroom facilities. A CVN does not provide the necessary space to allow for ROM separation IAW NAVADMIN 083 or CDC guidance with the majority of the crew

embarked. The Diamond Princess Cruise Ship example demonstrates that the only way they were able to stop the spread was to remove everyone off the ship. Considering that they already had some ability to quarantine onboard with individual guest rooms, we should be extremely concerned with the virus spread on a CVN.

I need approximately 500 Sailors to remain onboard to continue to operate a Rx plant, man normal watches to support minimal operations (C2, IET, etc..), and maintain aircraft readiness. Naval Base Guam is doing the best they can, but they do not have adequate facilities and we can't wait much longer for off island lodging to become available as our cases continue to increase. While I understand that there are political concerns with requesting the use of hotels on Guam to truly isolate the remaining 4,500 Sailors for 14+ days, the hotels are empty, and I believe it is the only way to quickly combat this problem. Keeping Sailors local also allows me to maintain the warfighting capability needed should the balloon go up. The alternatives are to let this ride out, hope for the best, and pray we don't lose Sailors to this invisible enemy. Naval Aviation is better than that, and we owe it to the thousands of Sailors onboard, and those outside watching, to take decisive action now.

I fully realize that I bear responsibility for not demanding more decisive action the moment we pulled in, but at this point my only priority is the continued well-being of the crew and embarked staff. As you know, the accountability of a Commanding Officer is absolute, and I believe if there is ever a time to ask for help it is now regardless of the impact on my career.

Vr,
Chopper

CAPT Brett E. Crozier
Commanding Officer
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)

**Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71)
Operations Officer**

On 11 May 2020 I was interviewed in connection with a command investigation concerning chain of command actions with regard to COVID-19 onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) via telephone.

What follows is a true and accurate representation of my statement for this investigation.

Witness Name: CDR (b) (6) _____ Position: Operations Officer
Command: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Department/Division: Operations
Email Address: (b) (6) @cvn71.navy.mil Phone(s): _____

Leading up to the Da Nang port visit, we were following the COVID story. It was national and international news so hard to miss. We were following closely mostly because of what we were observing with the Diamond Princess in the AOR. They wanted to pull into Japan and then they were turned away. During our port call in Guam, we heard that Diamond Princess requested to head south to Guam after being turned away in Japan. As I understand it, Guam said "no," but know they didn't go there. We watched the COVID outbreaks around the globe. It was big news when it exploded in places like South Korea. We knew full well that certain places were rising, like Singapore and Thailand where we hoped to have future port calls. We were following the COVID threat levels and severity of the country levels (significant, severe, moderate, mild, and low). Vietnam remained categorized as low risk throughout.

There were many discussions on the ship among the JOs, sailors, and leaders; frank discussions about Vietnam and COVID. At the time it was considered low risk. I think they had 14 positive cases at the time, concentrated up north near Hanoi. I looked this up at some point after the outbreak but distance between Da Nang and Hanoi is similar to San Diego and San Jose. Not really close. It was a low threat environment. I will tell you on board the ship, in particular with SMO, the message was "we need to prepare for this." I believe that nobody knows where it came from for sure. I don't think it came from Vietnam. Look at Bunker Hill. They were pier side, hosted numerous tours in Da Nang, and still no cases. I think we brought it with us from California (when we deployed). Prior to the Da Nang visit, we sent medical representatives to screen distinguished visitors before their COD flight.

Regarding mitigation measures, I recall a brief that SMO and his team released leading up to the Vietnam port call for procedures / actions to take before, during and after the port call. Essentially a medical specific port call brief including COVID mitigations in case of an outbreak. CAPT Crozier sent it to COS, who posted on the strike group CAS [collaboration at

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

sea] page. The push from staff leadership was to do more than Vinson did two years ago, in terms of professional exchanges, DVs hosted, attendance at the Big Top, etc. We got pressure from the embassy / country team as well. We sent medical personnel early to screen the Vietnamese DVs. They used the standard Fleet Forces COVID questionnaire that primarily asked about symptoms and travel. I don't recall if any DVs were turned away or not. I will tell you our plan for tours was to keep the Vietnamese DVs on the ship for as short a time as possible. We planned to show them a few specific spaces: hangar bay, aircraft elevator (ACE) ride to the flight deck, a tour of the flight deck, ACE ride back to the hangar bay, and depart. We had them scheduled to be on ship for maybe an hour max before they left. We really limited their access. We only one tour we gave in Vietnam based on sea state and the liberty boats.

Regarding the Brits who tested positive in the hotel, the 39 sailors (from TR, Bunker Hill, and CVW-11) were in quarantine onboard TR for the full 2-week period in their own separate berthing space. CAPT Crozier ensured they had at least one TV, workout equipment, a phone line to call families, and encouraged all embarked to stay in touch with them throughout the quarantine period. They all completed the quarantine with negative test results. I recall CAPT Crozier getting on the 1MC and talking about it frequently. He sent letters to the families, about one a week, certainly one the first week. I remember him talking to PAO about posting something on Facebook. I'm not certain that actually happened but I think it did. We talked a lot about being clean. Even before the port call we were already doing cleaning with bleach [we call it bleach-a-palooza]. During that 14-day quarantine for those sailors, we increased it to twice a day. SMO pushed it and we were tracking it pretty closely (attendance), making sure folks were getting the bleach solution and doing thorough cleaning.

The message was pushed out in our Plan of the Week, and another document sent out to all hands, like a COVID information sheet. What I remember more than anything else was CAPT Crozier getting on the 1MC. That was a primary method of communicating with the crew and he was probably on the 1MC at least twice a week. Updating the crew on the folks being cared for who are in quarantine, encouraging the crew to check on them to make sure their spirits are high.

I don't recall discussions about screening stores or packages coming off CODs at that time. I don't recall that being done at the time, I doubt it. I don't remember that being a thing. I don't recall any guidance about protecting personnel from possible transmission from packages / supplies. I did not have any lessons learned discussions with other OPSOs at that time; there weren't any. Since then, I've shared emails with OPSO on Reagan—he's a friend of mine—we've exchanged SOPs and mitigation strategies. I think I started that either just prior to or right after we arrived in Guam.

Between Da Nang and Guam, I do not recall incorporating any social distancing measures but we had some discussions. When we left Da Nang, we had no reason to start social distancing. We were leaving a low threat country, nobody had symptoms, and we put sailors in quarantine who

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

stepped foot inside the same hotel as the British tourists. We weren't even sure they had any contact let alone prolonged contact. We had those folks in quarantine until the 23rd. Up until then, we were feeling pretty good. It was a low-threat country, Bunker Hill had no issues. It was not until the 24th of March that the first two popped. We had a lot planned on the 24th; we had a RAS (replenishment at sea) and were supposed to continue with an exercise with an ARG. But we terminated that, turned south towards Guam, and started coordinating with Naval Base Guam for our arrival.

In terms of social distancing, that may have been a thing in the states in the last part of March. We did not close the barbershops, we talked about closing the gyms. My recommendation to the XO was to not close the gyms, specifically. My thought process was—and I wasn't alone in this—was the gym is one of a handful of places that people go: berthing, work center, mess decks, lounge, and the gym. If you close the gym with a fully manned carrier, you are going to push the same amount of people into fewer spaces and increase the congestion which gives you less social distancing. For PPE, by the time we pulled into Guam, we had some masks to pass out for COVID positive Sailors and close contacts, but we were not equipped with enough in case of a global pandemic and a world-wide shortage of N95 masks. So we limited distribution because if we pass them out to everyone, the expectation would be for that to continue and provide more when they got dirty, but we didn't have enough to do that. We ordered tens of thousands more later. The plan was to get this ship somewhere and get people off the ship as soon as possible.

By the 26th, before we pulled in to Guam, the first COA we tackled was, "How long would it take to get back home as soon as possible while minimizing time outside of MEDEVAC range?" We needed to determine the minimal manning to get the ship back home because that would create a priority for personnel to disembark first. From CSG-9 N3, this COA was presented to Admiral Baker and/or COS and he/they said, "No we're not going to do that." I understand that mindset. Returning home so fast would signal defeat and we are not built that way. So we took action on that COA. Once we got to Guam, we determined 840 was the right (minimal) number to get the ship underway and sail to San Diego, but as we planned to move them off the ship first to ensure a COVID-free would be available in case we had to execute that plan, things became convoluted with each subsequent, competing COA. It was super frustrating because they kept asking for a number of Sailors required to complete a task (limited / full flight ops) or what we could accomplish with a certain amount of Sailors. Initially there was little to no regard for qualifications and the fact that we can't identify who will or will not contract the virus. You can't just have any 840 people and you're done. It needs to be right people.

After we came up with the first COA, the next COA became "get underway from Guam in 2-3 weeks with a certain amount of sailors (more than 840), launch the air wing to Andersen AFB to regain currency, and immediately return to NB Guam. Then go back out to sea 2-3 weeks later with more Sailors to continue with deployment." Then it was the 5,000 rooms in Okinawa COA.

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

Followed by the discussion of flying most of the crew to Fallon, Hawaii or San Diego. Finally it a larger scale CONOPS brief that included four COAs. This was all within the first 2-3 days of being pier side in Guam. From my perspective there was more focus on the next phase deployment rather than developing a plan to ensure the health of the crew. It felt like all we got was push back, a number of arguments between CAG and COS. CAG was voicing that we need people off to be in compliance with the NAVADMINs and CDC guidance, and COS was pushing back that you're not going to get commercial hotels or a Hilton downtown. That was not our intention, but we wanted to isolate / quarantine personnel with their own bathrooms in accordance with the CDC guidance.

Another COA was flying all 5,000 people to Okinawa. We scrambled to identify and prioritize Sailors (separate from the 840) to travel as soon as the next day because we were told we had "4-star support" in redirecting aircraft to Guam for us. A couple days later it was, "Ok just kidding, it's 500 rooms." We did not plan for this, but there were serious conversations about getting underway to sail to Okinawa and transport people to shore via helicopter while at anchor; which is beyond ridiculous. That would take a month and half. Admiral Baker discussed Hawaii and Fallon as options; the COAs didn't stop coming. Another one was getting the "sick" half off the ship and the other half get underway. But it's not just numbers, you need people with certain skills, qualifications, etc. to get underway. Not just a "healthy" half of the crew. I just kept coming back to, "there are rooms on Guam, both on and off base, that are compliant with the CDC and Navy guidelines. Why can't we explore that option?" It was frustrating. You go to these meetings every day and we'd have to plan for another COA that we knew full well wasn't going to be executed. They just didn't make sense.

Because of the shutdown and the economic impact to the pandemic, we knew there were lots of rooms available on the island. It wasn't hard to find on the internet. We knew that Andersen AFB wasn't an option because the USAF wouldn't let us land an airplane there. No way they would let us stay on base for weeks at a time.

So the first email from CAPT (b) (6) I saw was on March 26th, "Welcome aboard, we're here to help." He sent that to CAPT Crozier about the capacity on base and initial support. He relayed that the base was not ready, but they bent over backwards to help us. I will say this, it is super challenging. We were supposed to pull in a week later, so they (Guam) weren't ready for this. We weren't ready. Nobody plans for this. This isn't part of the training cycle.

At the bottom of that email to CAPT Crozier, CAPT (b) (6) stated they had about 700 beds, but capacity to only feed 350 people per day, which he estimated would improve over the next few days. We got pressure after that for the next week or so because the capacity pushed up the chain from the base / region (grew to over 1,000 "rooms") was not close to the amount of Sailors we pushed off the ship. Our feedback was, "Yeah but it's not 'rooms,' it's mostly cots in a gym or in the laundry room of a town house." And they're saying, "It's an emergency to get them off the

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

ship.” Yeah but it’s not compliant with the CDC. But, “you have to get them off the ship!” It felt like, to me, like we could never have a right answer. Those on the outside screaming about social distancing onboard the ship turned a blind eye to the conditions of those sailors in the gym sleeping 3 feet away from their neighbor. Keep in mind that, except for those who tested positive or presumed positive, we could not leave the ship for the first two or three days in port. Not even the pier. Only those departing for one of the gyms, schools or townhouses could leave, but we also needed to be escorted by NB Guam personnel in duty vehicles (a follow-me truck). And we were limited in the number of vehicles we could use to leave the pier. Three vehicles initially. Makes it hard to move a large number of Sailors off the ship. When we first arrived the base didn’t have the ability to adequately feed our Sailors. After getting feedback about the quantity and quality, CAPT (b) (6) got personally involved and corrected the issue.

I want to say there was a push to get 3,000 beds on base. At least 2,500. My sense was that was coming from Seventh Fleet. So the region and NGB executed the plan and added cots to most of the schools and gyms on base. In every nook and cranny, which is awesome, but what’s that doing exactly? So we’ve got all these cots in gyms or a warehouse, but little to no regard to spacing or the number of people per head. This was also at a time when hotels opened up, but we still had to send Sailors to the gyms first to increase our fill rate. That only makes sense to me if you’re working to turn a chiclet green on a PowerPoint slide. None of that made sense and it was extremely frustrating. There appeared to be pressure from the top to get people off the ship regardless of the situation they were going to.

Then they started adding beds to townhouses on base. It started off as around 200 some odd cots, and then they were adding cots to those locations to build capacity, because the mindset was we must build capacity on the base. We’re not looking for 5-star hotel, but if you’re putting eight people in a three bedroom townhouse with two bathrooms when the guidance is one bed one bath per person, then we’re not compliant.

We were getting told, “Well you’re not social distancing on the ship” or “you need to enforce social distancing”. Well yeah, that’s impossible and you’re telling us to social distance three hundred people in a gym. How are you gonna do that?

So many things that just didn’t add up, such as the differing COAs to Hawaii, Okinawa, Fallon, etc. Then, after CAPT Crozier sent the email, we suddenly had an ability get hotel rooms. All of a sudden we have progress. I think 100% it had to do with the letter because magically, we had rooms available. We’re all going through the CDC guidance, NMCPH guidance, NAVADMINs, and their all saying the same thing and we can’t do it. I was in the room with CAG, commodore, CAPT Crozier, when Admiral Baker asked him about the letter. But magically, after the letter, we had hotels, what we needed, and support.

I don’t know where the pushback / resistance was coming from, but I told CAPT Crozier two

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

nights before he was relieved. I see him every night for night orders. It was just me and him and he asked me, "What do you think?" I told him, "It doesn't make sense." I told him we've got a CSG Commander who's very aggressive and he recognizes that. He told us so. I get it, I'm tracking. During TSTA, he stopped the exercise and training for the strike group to develop and execute a CONOPS to prosecute what he and other perceived as a threat. Brief to Third Fleet, moved ships around the operating area, everything. In another case, he wanted a specific, unique capability on our ship for special access programs and he pushed it very hard to get it. Along with a JO on the CSG staff, one my JOs made this thing happen to get this capability on the ship in a month or two. After we deployed, there was a 5 or 6 week period between port calls and he found a way to add another Guam port call (clearly working with C7F). It was as if he got everything he asked for. So the outbreak happens and we plan to MEDEVAC the COD to Andersen AFB with COVID positive Sailors and they refused to let us land there. I don't recall the number, but it took several helicopters to get our Sailors to Guam Naval Hospital. Then we asked for rooms, on or off base, to provide separation and allow our people to recover in a true quarantine or isolation room in this situation and we couldn't get help from any organization. Zero progress. I told him it doesn't make sense to me that the Air Force told us to go away because we're "dirty" and that aggressive guy doesn't make a phone call to fix that situation. Maybe he did. Maybe it fell on deaf ears and he got no support. But it was odd that an Admiral with so many connections, who openly talked about his close ties to ADM Aquilino, who was ADM Davidson's EA, we're in their AOR, and that aggressive man with those connections can't get make any progress on getting adequate quarantine lodging in Guam? We can't get airplanes to Japan? I don't know if the pushback for rooms was coming from CSG staff, Admiral Baker, 7th Fleet, or higher. But whenever the hotel room option was mentioned, we got the same reply - "that is not acceptable / supportable". My impression is that it (COVID) was not being taken seriously. CAPT Crozier's response was short. He said he thought it was a hard problem and that it was a political one with the local government of Guam and the locals who are rightly concerned about their health.

As carrier OPSO, I only had direct contact one time with 7th Fleet staff. We work through the strike group staff. Until recent, I was there for every 7th Fleet CUB, every Tuesday. For me, actually dealing directly with 7th Fleet was just that one time. I'm aware of the 7th Fleet working group on COVID but not a part of that meeting. I may have attended once. I know there's a daily VTC, but I did not attend other than maybe once.

As we've made progress in the recovery, we (as planners) finally settled on an expected departure date based on the expected return of sailors with the requisite qualifications. [I can't give the date] That date was passed up the chain through the CSG-9 staff. Recently, we were asked to provide a window of opportunity (WOO) instead of a specific date. Along with another head of department, I was part of developing that WOO that included a best (earliest) and worst (latest) case dates. Our recommended departure date was provided in a daily product from the

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

strike group staff to C7F. The best case date was 4 days earlier than the original recommended date. Shortly after providing the WOO, the slide changed to show that we were planning for the best case date. When I asked CSG staffers why the slide changed, the answer was "it was directed from C7F". This happened shortly after Admiral Aquilino visited the ship and had an all-officer call on the pier. Someone asked him "when should we expect to be leaving Guam?" He said as soon as we're healthy and ready. He said "I'm not gonna rush you." He told the Reactor Officer the same thing during his tour on board. The problem is we knew at that point we could not achieve the best case date because of a variety of factors, but simply put we didn't have enough Sailors embarked who cleared the return to work protocol. So the slide remained unchanged until Seventh Fleet directed a change to the recommended date – when the best case date arrived. The point is despite being told there is no pressure, there is lots of pressure when the fleet commander (and staff) direct a change like that. I've served on a CSG staff (as an aide) and a TYCOM staff (as an N3/N40 action officer). I've never seen anything like that before. I don't mind pressure, but you have to be realistic. You can't tell someone with cancer "just have a couple chemo treatments – I'll see you back at work on Tuesday". Especially when you never had cancer. It just doesn't work that way. At a certain point, that date shifted on the CSG-9 slide to the earliest date, and, honestly, I missed it, bad on me, but I missed it.

I was around a lot, just by virtue of the position, and spent lots of time with CAPT Crozier. I will tell you the letter, the email, this was all a joint effort by the warfare commanders saying that the plans to fight COVID-19 weren't working. They saw the dysfunction. We have the recent history and studies of the Diamond Princess in Japan, we have the blueprint, but there was significant pushback at all levels. CAG did much of the heavy lifting of drafting the original version of the letter and the warfare commanders each chopped it. They discussed the way ahead and CAPT Crozier said he should sign it as the carrier CO.

I was in the room that Monday afternoon our time, when Admiral Baker walked in the inport cabin and asked him about the email. CAG and Commodore too. This stood out to me, because he sat down, and said, "Is there any reason you didn't tell me why you were gonna send that email?" The CO asked CSG if he would have stopped him from sending it. Admiral Baker said maybe he would've sent it. CO expressed that he just wanted to do what was right for the Sailors and get them the help they need. That it wasn't about trying to protect his job. He also said that he thought he could take some heat for Admiral Baker as there seemed to be some friction between him and VADM Merz. The CO said he felt it was time to send up a flare. Admiral Baker said "I don't work that way".

But the next thing that stuck with me was that that Admiral Baker said the letter would get leaked. The CO seemed surprised and asked, "Why would it get leaked? It only went to us in this room, CPF and the Air Boss." Admiral Baker said that it could be easily forwarded on an unclassified network. The letter was leaked the next night (Guam time). A very similar tone and

Subj: Witness Statement of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) Operations Officer

language was used during the SECNAV press conference.

I was there when the CO realized the letter was leaked; he had the news up on his computer. The CO commented that they sent the letter to his hometown paper, stating, "They're going to think I did this, but I didn't do it." I believe him. It's been a challenge. And it's been a challenge by design, we're the first carrier to handle this. We're trying to get back to sea and not repeat this whole process.

A lot of what was being put out by the SECNAV and CNO was inaccurate. And I get the time and distance and information flow. But SECNAV said during some press briefing that we're gonna get half the people off the ship by the end of the week, and it's like where's that coming from? That plan was not mentioned by anybody that I work with on the ship at any point until he said it. That was a day or two before CAPT Crozier got relieved.

I swear (or affirm) that the information in the statement above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

(b) (6)

(Witness' Signature) (b) (6) 18 May 2020 1018
(Date) Time

Name of Interviewer: CDR (b) (6)

(b) (6)

LCDR USN VCNO (USA)

From: (b) (6) LCDR USN, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:44 PM
To: (b) (6) CDR USN, C7F'
Cc: (b) (6) LT USN, C7F'
Subject: FW: Urgent media inquiry: USS Theodore Roosevelt COVID outbreak
Signed By: (b) (6) @navy.mil

Ma'am,

CAPT (b) (6) emailed me below

While I have a copy of the email (hard copy given to me by the CO today), I do not have a copy of the attachment (white paper) that was included in the email sent to PACFLT and CNAF which is what I believe the reporter is referencing in his media query.

Did you want me to provide anything to CAPT (b) (6), or do you prefer to engage with PACFLT directly?

Very respectfully,

LCDR (b) (6)
Public Affairs Officer
Carrier Strike Group NINE
USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71)
Office: (b) (6)
Cell: (b) (6)
(b) (6) @cvn71.navy.(smil).mil

O: (b) (6)
JDial: (b) (6)
Hydra: (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) CAPT USN COMPACFLT (USA) [mailto:(b) (6) @navy.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 1:23 PM
To: (b) (6) LCDR USN, USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Subject: FW: Urgent media inquiry: USS Theodore Roosevelt COVID outbreak

(b) (6), Are you aware of this letter? Did you read it?

v/r (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) LTJG USN COMPACFLT (USA) (b) (6) @navy.mil>

Date: Monday, Mar 30, 2020, 2:05 PM

To: (b) (6) @sfchronicle.com <(b) (6) @sfchronicle.com>

Subject: RE: Urgent media inquiry: USS Theodore Roosevelt COVID outbreak

Hi (b) (6) ,

I've got your query and I'll work to get you additional answers soonest.

Very Respectfully,

Lt. j.g. (b) (6)

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Cell: (b) (6)

From: (b) (6) <(b) (6) @sfchronicle.com>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 7:11 PM

To: OSD Pentagon PA Mailbox Duty Officer Press Operations <(b) (6) @mail.mil>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Urgent media inquiry: USS Theodore Roosevelt COVID outbreak

Hi,

I'm a reporter with the San Francisco Chronicle. I'm working on an article about the USS Theodore Roosevelt that has a number of COVID-19 cases on board. It's now docked at the base in Guam. It is based out of San Diego.

We obtained a copy of a four-page letter sent from Capt. Brett Crozier pleading for help from the U.S. Navy brass to bring equipment to allow isolated quarantines for his entire crew. He says the current strategy is not working as there is no way to properly isolate aboard the aircraft carrier.

I had questions for the Navy:

1. Have you received Capt. Crozier's letter?
2. How many positive COVID tests are there right now on the ship's crew?
3. What is the response from the Navy? Is anything being done?
4. What specifics are being done right now? Is any equipment being sent there? When will it arrive?
5. How concerned is the Navy about this situation?
6. Any other comments about this situation?

Thanks for your prompt attention. I can be reached by email or at (b) (6). I have a deadline today at 6:30 p.m. CA time.

Best,

(b) (6)

Transcript: Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly addresses USS Theodore Roosevelt crew about 'stupid' ousted captain

Updated 6:34 PM ET, Mon April 6, 2020

Code: 4 | Message: Something went wrong during native playback.

Hear Acting Navy secretary's criticism of ousted captain 02:29

(CNN) — Acting Secretary of the Navy [Thomas Modly](#) blasted the now-ousted commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, Capt. Brett Crozier, as "stupid" in an address to the ship's crew Monday morning.

Read the full transcript of Modly's address to the crew, obtained by CNN:

I've been wanting to come out to the ship since we first found out you had COVID cases on here. I was actually planning on being here last Tuesday after I went to see the Mercy off in Los Angeles. So I want you to know that no one in my level has been ignoring the situation here from the very beginning.

I reached out to your CO through my Chief of Staff very, very early on in this crisis. On Sunday, told him that I wanted to come out to the ship and if it would be okay or if it would be too disruptive. I told him that because I wanted to be able to help, if there was anything else he needed as this massive effort was underway, to get you guys healthy and clean and safe. He waved me off. He said he felt like things were under control. He had been concerned a day or so before that things weren't moving quickly but things—he still wanted to get more beds—but he didn't think it was necessary. He also talked to my Chief of Staff and emailed back and forth with him.

On Sunday night, he sent that email. And that email went out to a broad audience of people. I know that I mentioned that it was over 20. We believe that it was forwarded to even far

H-4-124



Related Article: Sailors cheer for aircraft carrier commander who was removed after issuing coronavirus warning

about the material condition of a Naval war ship. If he didn't think—it was my opinion, that if he didn't think that information was going to get out into the public, in this information age that we live in, then he was A, too naive or too stupid to be the commanding officer of a ship like this. The alternative is that he did this on purpose. And that's a serious violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which you are all familiar with. That message, and all the contents of that message was perfectly fine for him to send to people in his chain of command in a confidential way so they could get acting on it. He in fact could have given it to me, through my Chief of Staff, or to me, as I asked him to do when I first reached out to him on the ship, when we first found out that there were COVID cases here.

It was a betrayal of trust with me, with his chain of command, with you, with the 800 to a thousand people who are your shipmates on shore right now, busting their asses every day to do what they need to do to convert what they do in a normal day to get you guys off of here, get you safe and get you healthy, get you clean, and get you back on this ship where you are supposed to be.

(INDISTINCT YELLING IN BACKGROUND)

It was betrayal. And I can tell you one other thing: because he did that, he put it in the public's forum, and it's now become a big controversy in Washington, DC, and across the country [LOW BACKGROUND YELLING: HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP US] about a martyr CO, who wasn't getting the help he needed and therefore had to go through the Chain of Command, a chain of command which includes the media. And I'm gonna tell you something, all of you. There is never a situation where you should consider the media a part of your chain of command. You can jump the Chain of Command if you want, and take the consequences, you can disobey the chain of command and take the consequences, but there is no, no situation where you go to the media. Because the media has an agenda. And the agenda that they have depends on which side of the political aisle they sit. And I'm sorry that's the way the country is now, but it's the truth. And so they use it to divide us. They use it to embarrass the Navy. They use it to embarrass you. (INDISTINCT YELLING IN BACKGROUND)

While you're out here dealing with something that this country hasn't had to deal with in over a hundred years, and the world hasn't ever dealt with anything like this on this scale, the American people believe in you. They think of all the people in the world that can keep their shit together in something like this—it's the United States Navy [INDISTINCT BACKGROUND CHATTER THROUGHOUT] and our sailors—and they're stressed. They may be stressed, they may be tired, they may be scared, but they're keeping their shit together and they're taking care of their people on the shore who are busting their ass to get them off this ship. They're not taking shots at them. They're asking, how can we help them? What can we do? How can I help the E3 that works for me? I'm an E4. I'm concerned. What do I do to help the E2's and E3's that are on this ship? That's your duty. Not to complain.

Everyone's scared about this thing. But I tell you something, if this ship was in combat and there were hypersonic missiles coming at it, you'd be pretty BLEEP scared too. [BACKGROUND YELLING: WHOA!] But you do your jobs. And that's what I expect you to do, and that's what I expect every officer on this ship to do, is to do your jobs.

One of the things about his email that bothered me the most was saying that we are not at war. Well we're not technically at war. But let me tell ya something, the only reason we are dealing with this right now is because a big authoritarian regime called China was not forthcoming about what was happening with this virus. And they put the world at risk to protect themselves and to protect their reputations. We don't do that in the Navy. We are transparent with each other, in the proper channels, and with each other. And that's what we are supposed to do and that's what you're expected to do.

I got your list of questions. I'm very, very thankful to have gotten them. I know they're all sincere. I don't think there is any agenda in any of those. But there's a lot of them and I'm gonna answer every single one of them, but I've gotta do it respectfully, and I've gotta take some time so you understand all the nuances of the questions you are

And let me say one other thing, everything I am telling you guys now, I will never, ever, ever throw you guys under the bus in Washington or anywhere else in the media, anywhere else. And don't, I expect you never to do that to your shipmates either—the ones on the shore right now who told me that when Captain Crozier's email made it to the San Francisco Chronicle after working 15 hour days, they were demoralized because they knew what they had been doing for you guys since the 25th of March to get you guys what you need.

And the other thing you need to understand is we're in Guam. It's a US territory but they have their own government, and they have their healthcare problems, and they're scared too, just like every other part of the world. And the Governor of Guam has stuck her neck out big time with their own population to say that she is willing to open up hotel rooms all over this this country, or this state, this territory, so that sailors from the USS Teddy Roosevelt can go and be safe. Because she believes that you all are her brothers and sisters, her brothers and sisters who are protecting this place for her citizens. And so she's willing to put all that at risk to take care of you guys.

And she told me today when Captain Crozier's letter came out in the public, she had to then deal with all her constituents—who are saying, "holy crap what's happening? We're going to have 5,000 people with COVID in our city, without proper health care and everything else."

So think about that when you cheer the man off the ship who exposed you to that. I understand you love the guy. It's good that you love him. But you're not required to love him.

So I want to share something with you that I read at the Navy Academy graduation in 2018. I said it to the graduating class, but I'm going to expand it a little bit. I said, as officers and sailors of the United States Military, you are given tremendous responsibility to respect and protect those who are placed under your command. The American people will trust you with their sons and daughters. And they place their security and the security of our nation in your hands. Do not expect to be loved by everyone for this—even though it may happen. As Secretary Mattis my former boss was fond of saying to us who were so honored to work with him in the Pentagon—he said your job is to protect the nation.

So I'm going to give you a little bit of advice to make this important—and often difficult—job far easier on yourselves. My best advice to you is don't ever be—don't ever worry about being loved for what you do. Rather, love the country that you are asked to defend. Love the constitution you pledged your lives to protect.

And importantly, love the people you are ordered to lead. Make sure they eat before you do. Care about their families as much as your own. Be invested in their success more than your own accomplishments. Nurture their careers more than you pursue your own advancement. And value their lives to the point that you will always consider their safety at every single decision you make. It's only through this level of servant leadership that you will maximize and empower those you lead to meet the demands that will face us in this century. And those demands are getting more complicated every day, as we're all learning. But it's also going to accrue incredible personal satisfaction to you during time of service.

Crew of the Teddy Roosevelt. You are no obligation to love your leadership, only to respect it. You are under no obligation to like your job, only to do it. You are under no obligation to expect anything from your leaders other than they will treat you fairly and put the mission of the ship first.

Because it is the mission of the ship that matters. You all know this. But in my view, your Captain lost sight of this and he compromised critical information about your status intentionally to draw greater attention to your situation. That was my judgment and I judged that it could not be tolerated from the commanding officer of a nuclear aircraft carrier. This put you at great risk even though I am certain he never thought it would. I'm certain he loved you all, as he should. But he lost sight of why the TR exists and fate brought you all together in the middle of this COVID crisis.

Your nation back home is struggling. No one expected this pandemic. As we are all working our way through it, your fellow sailors in the States are volunteering, putting on uniforms and running into the fire in places like New York, Los Angeles, Dallas, and New Orleans. I've seen them, no fear, running right into COVID.

But the TR has to stand strong as warriors, not weak like victims. The TR has to work its way through this with grace, not panic. The TR has to demonstrate to the citizens back home that it has its act together, and that it is knocking down this virus, just as it would knock down the Chinese or the North Koreans or the Russians if any one of those nations were ever so stupid enough to mess with the Big Stick, because they thought she was vulnerable.

I cannot control or attempt to change whatever anger you have with me for relieving your beloved CO. If I could offer you a glimpse of the level of hatred and pure evil that has been thrown my way, my family's way, over this decision, I would. But it doesn't matter. It's not about me. The former Vice President of the United States Joe Biden suggested just yesterday that my decision was criminal. I assure you it was not. [BACKGROUND YELLING: WHAT ARE YOU...] Because I understand the facts, and those facts show that what your captain did was very, very wrong, in a moment when we expected him to be the calming force on a turbulent sea.

There was very little upside in this decision for me. You can believe that or not. I made the decision for the Navy I love, for the Navy I served in, and now serve for. And mostly for the sailors I'm responsible for, not just to you here, but on nearly 300 other ships in the fleet. Your captain's actions had implications for them too. Imagine if every other CO also believed that the media was also the proper channel to hear grievances with their chain of command under difficult circumstances. We would no longer have a Navy. And not longer after that, we'd no longer have a country.

Still, I understand you may be angry with me for the rest of your lives. I guarantee you won't be alone. But being angry is not your duty. Your duty is to each other, and to this ship, and to the nation that built it for you to protect them. Even amidst an unexpected crisis, it is the mission of this ship that matters. Our adversaries are watching, and that is why we are here. We will get you the help you need. You have my personal word on it. Your CO had my personal word on that from Day One. Whatever else you may think of me, I don't go back on my word. And when it comes to the TR, whether you hate me or not, I will never, ever, ever give up this ship and neither should you. Thanks for listening, and I'll get the detailed answers to your questions to you some time later this week. Go Navy.



Captain of Aircraft Carrier Pleads for Help as Virus Cases Increase Onboard

“We are not at war,” the captain of the carrier Theodore Roosevelt wrote. “Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our sailors.”



By **Thomas Gibbons-Neff and Helene Cooper**

Published March 31, 2020 Updated May 5, 2020

WASHINGTON — The captain of an American aircraft carrier deployed to the Pacific Ocean has pleaded with the Pentagon for more help as a coronavirus outbreak aboard his ship continues to spread, officials said Tuesday. Military officials say dozens of sailors have been infected.

In a four-page letter dated Monday, first reported by The San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday, Capt. Brett E. Crozier laid out the dire situation unfolding aboard the warship, the Theodore Roosevelt, which has more than 4,000 crew members. He described what he said were the Navy’s failures to provide him with the proper resources to combat the virus by moving sailors off the vessel.

“We are not at war,” Captain Crozier wrote. “Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our sailors.”

The carrier is currently docked in Guam.

Thomas B. Modly, the acting Navy secretary, told CNN in an interview that the Navy was working to move sailors off the ship — but that there were not enough beds in Guam to accommodate the entire crew.

“We’re having to talk to the government there to see if we can get some hotel space, create some tent-type facilities there,” Mr. Modly said. “We’re doing it in a very methodical way because it’s not the same as a cruise ship.”

Speaking to reporters Tuesday night, the commander of the Pacific Fleet, Adm. John C. Aquilino, said that “we’re welcoming feedback” regarding the requests outlined by Captain Crozier.

Admiral Aquilino said that crew members would be rotated off the carrier for testing and quarantine before returning aboard. The intent, he said, was to keep the ship ready to carry out its missions. He said that no crew members had been hospitalized thus far, but he declined to specify the number of infections.

In his letter, Captain Crozier had recommended offloading his entire crew, and then quarantining and testing them while the ship was professionally cleaned.

H-4-125

The problem aboard the Roosevelt highlights a central dilemma facing the military: Top officials, who have spent years placing readiness to fight the next war as a top priority, are now finding that maintaining that readiness during a pandemic can endanger the health, and even the lives, of service members. At the same time that Americans are being told to stay at home and practice “social distancing” in public, many service members are instead being told to continue doing their jobs.

The mixed messages have emerged across the armed services. Last week, the Army ordered a halt to most training, exercises and nonessential activities that require troops to be in close contact, but abruptly reversed itself days later, even as the infection rate in the American military rose. Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper has insisted that the armed forces find a way to protect troops from the rampaging virus while performing the military’s essential operations.

The crisis aboard the Roosevelt played out like a slow-moving disaster and highlights the dangers to the Pentagon if the coronavirus manages to infiltrate some of its most important assets, such as bomber fleets, elite Special Operations units and the talisman of American military power, aircraft carriers.

In a statement, a Navy official said that the commanding officer of the Roosevelt “alerted leadership in the Pacific Fleet on Sunday evening of continuing challenges in isolating the virus.”

“The ship’s commanding officer advocated for housing more members of the crew in facilities that allow for better isolation,” the statement said. “Navy leadership is moving quickly to take all necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of the crew of U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt, and is pursuing options to address the concerns raised by the commanding officer.”

At its core, the issue on the Roosevelt and other warships stems from the near impossibility of putting adequate social distance among people to stop the spread of the illness. The enormous ship, about 20 stories high, is its own city, but one with an extremely dense population.

Life aboard the Roosevelt means learning to live on top of other people: Many of the berths where sailors sleep include bunk beds. Hallways and doorways are cramped. Bathrooms and cafeterias are shared areas. Low ceilings and narrow, ladderlike stairwells that require the use of hands to maneuver up and down all contribute to an ever-present opportunity to spread the virus.

The flight deck of the Roosevelt, on the other hand, is enormous. The Navy likes to describe its carriers as five acres of sovereign territory. But the Navy imposes strict limits on how many people can be on the flight deck at any time.

Navy officials have acknowledged the dangers that ships pose during an outbreak of an infectious disease. As the world has seen with cruise ships, viruses can spread with frightening ease aboard these vessels. That is one reason Navy officials have been doing all they can to keep the hospital ship Comfort virus-free during its current mission in New York, where it is taking patients with other medical problems to relieve hospitals overrun by coronavirus patients.

Frequently Asked Questions and Advice

Updated May 20, 2020

- **How can I protect myself while flying?**

If air travel is unavoidable, there are some steps you can take to protect yourself. Most important: Wash your hands often, and stop touching your face. If possible, choose a window seat. A study from Emory University found that during flu season, the safest place to sit on a plane is by a window, as people sitting in window seats had less contact with potentially sick people. Disinfect hard surfaces. When you get to your seat and your hands are clean, use disinfecting wipes to clean the hard surfaces at your seat like the head and arm rest, the seatbelt buckle, the remote, screen, seat back pocket and the tray

READ MORE ▼

In his letter, Captain Crozier clearly outlined the challenge. “None of the berthing aboard a warship is appropriate for quarantine or isolation,” he wrote.

A senior Navy official on Sunday sought to play down the urgency of the situation on the Roosevelt, saying that while it was unfortunate, most of the reported symptoms among the sickened sailors and other crew members had been mild.

Mr. Modly, the acting Navy secretary, defended the ship’s decision to have made a port call in Da Nang, Vietnam, despite the spread of the virus across Asia. He said that, at the time, coronavirus cases in Vietnam numbered fewer than 100 and were in the north of the country, around Hanoi. Port calls for Navy ships have since been canceled.

Maj. Gen. Jeff Taliaferro, the vice director for operations with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged on Monday that there had been news reports about the coronavirus aboard the Roosevelt. He declined to go into details for security reasons, he said.

But, echoing a line that the military has consistently taken during the pandemic, General Taliaferro insisted that the Roosevelt could nonetheless perform its missions. If the Roosevelt had to sail immediately, he told reporters on a conference call, it was “ready to sail.”

Eric Schmitt contributed reporting.

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Coronavirus

[Live updates](#)

[U.S. map](#)

[World map](#)

[Reopening tracker](#)

[Lives lost](#)

[Your life a](#)



Battling an outbreak, captain of aircraft carrier asks Navy to evacuate crew

By **Missy Ryan**, **Dan Lamothe** and **Paul Sonne**

March 31, 2020 at 10:20 p.m. EDT

The captain of a U.S. aircraft carrier grappling with a [coronavirus](#) outbreak made an unusual appeal to the Navy to move thousands of sailors into quarantine on shore, illustrating the difficulty of containing the virus on crowded military vessels.

In a March 30 letter first made public by [the San Francisco Chronicle](#), Navy Capt. Brett Crozier, commanding officer of the [USS Theodore Roosevelt](#), asked that 90 percent of the ship's crew of more than 4,000 sailors be moved into isolation on Guam, where the ship has been located since a spate of novel coronavirus infections emerged on board.

"Decisive action is required. Removing the majority of personnel from a deployed U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier and isolating them for two weeks may seem like an extraordinary measure," he wrote. "We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our sailors."

AD

The ship, which in recent months had been conducting operations in Asia, pulled into port late last week in Guam, where infected sailors and others who had close contact with them were moved onshore for monitoring or treatment. It had previously made a port stop in Vietnam, though it is not clear whether sailors were initially infected there.

While the Navy has since announced plans to test the Roosevelt's entire crew, Crozier said that step would be inadequate because, he said, it would be impossible to implement government isolation and distancing guidelines aboard a carrier.

"Due to a warship's inherent limitations of space, we are not doing this. The spread of the disease is ongoing and accelerating," he wrote.

AD

Crozier enumerated some of the problematic elements of life aboard a carrier: shared bathrooms, shared sleeping quarters, group mealtimes, work tasks that require individuals to remain in proximity, ladders and other surfaces that are frequently touched as crew members move around the ship.

A fifth of those initially diagnosed with the virus, Crozier said, had tested negative one to three days before coming down with symptoms.

In his letter, Crozier proposed that approximately 10 percent of the crew remain on board to tend to the ship's nuclear reactor and take care of other core duties. To bolster his case, the captain cited research showing how conditions aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship, the site of an earlier outbreak, allowed the virus to spread at an accelerated rate.

AD

It was not immediately clear to whom the letter was addressed or who would grant permission for such a move. The Roosevelt is one of 11 American aircraft carriers.

The predicament facing naval commanders is just one aspect of the challenge in front of Pentagon leaders as they seek to help civilian authorities respond to the coronavirus crisis in the United States, while also maintaining overseas security missions and minimizing the disease's effect on service members.

Thomas Modly, the acting Navy secretary, said in an interview on CNN that he heard about Crozier's letter Tuesday morning.

"We've been working actually the last several days to move those sailors off the ship, and to get them into accommodations in Guam," Modly said. "The problem is that Guam doesn't have enough beds right now, and so we're having to talk to the government there to see if we can get some hotel space or create some tent-like facilities there."

AD

Modly said Navy leadership "does not disagree" with Crozier but wants to handle the situation in a methodical way.

Evacuating a warship is not the same as taking passengers off a cruise ship, he said, citing the need to watch over weapons and be prepared to fight fires aboard the ship. The Navy is moving to accelerate the testing of those aboard the vessel and wants to clean the entire carrier, he said.

“We’re absolutely accelerating it,” Modly said.

Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper said Tuesday night on CBS News that he had not yet read Crozier’s letter but that “I don’t think we’re at that point” where it makes sense to evacuate the ship.

AD

Navy officials did not immediately provide a current number for how many of the Roosevelt’s crew have tested positive for the disease. The Chronicle, citing a senior officer aboard the ship, said that more than 100 sailors have tested positive. Navy officials said previously that dozens of cases were confirmed.

A Navy official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss an evolving situation, said Crozier had alerted leaders of the military’s Pacific Fleet on Sunday to “continuing challenges in isolating the virus,” urging the Navy to place more of the ship’s crew in facilities that allow for greater isolation.

James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral, said in an email that naval vessels are “ideal breeding grounds for the spread of viruses” because it is impossible to do social distancing on them. The problem, he said, is compounded because the service cannot just tie up the carrier and send everyone ashore.

AD

“It is full of weapons, billions of dollars of equipment, fire hazards and nuclear reactors,” he said.

There is a critical need for testing and getting those known to be infected ashore immediately, Stavridis added. Reducing the crew also will help space out sailors. But Stavridis said U.S. officials should expect similar incidents in the future.

“The best advice for the Pacific Fleet and indeed the entire U.S. Navy is test, test and test,” and then remove those infected as soon as possible, he said.

As ships with infections come offline, other ships must be surged forward to replace them, said Stavridis, who is an operating executive with the Carlyle Group investment firm.

AD

In a conference call with reporters, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. John C. Aquilino, said Tuesday that the Navy will continue to take care of sailors aboard the Roosevelt and that his top priority is their health. So far, no sailors have required hospitalization, he said.

Asked about the captain's letter, Aquilino said he is "welcoming feedback" during a dynamic situation and wants to "make sure that we understand what the leader on the ground needs."

Aquilino said the Navy has been working toward what it believes the crew needs, and toward having the capacity to quarantine a large number of sailors. He is "optimistic" that the ability to do so will be delivered "shortly," he said, without providing a more specific timeline. But Aquilino said there "has never been an intent" to take all sailors off the ship, and that if the carrier needed to respond to a crisis today, it would.

AD

In his letter, Crozier also said the Roosevelt could embark and fight immediately if required.

“But in combat we are willing to take certain risks that are not acceptable in peacetime,” he wrote.

The mother and father of a sailor on the ship who tested positive for the coronavirus said in an interview with The Washington Post that despite the leadership of the carrier ringing alarm bells, higher-ups at the Navy had been “dragging their feet.”

The parents, who spoke on the condition that their names not be used to avoid identifying their child, said the Navy should have immediately tested the entire crew and separated those who tested positive to contain the outbreak.

Instead, they said, their child tried for days to get a test and was denied, despite having interacted with someone known to have come down with the virus. Only after their child was showing full-blown symptoms was a test offered. When it came back positive, their child was removed from the ship and put in military base housing in Guam.

The Navy first evacuated essential personnel, including those without symptoms, according to the parents. Only afterward were some sailors who weren’t “essential” to the ship’s operations given the possibility to disembark.

“What it boils down to is why didn’t they test everyone right away?” the mother of the sailor said, adding that an effort to test the entire ship immediately could have helped contain the outbreak after it first became apparent.

HEALTH NEWS

MARCH 31, 2020 / 1:01 PM / 2 MONTHS AGO

'Sailors do not need to die,' warns captain of coronavirus-hit U.S. aircraft carrier

Idrees Ali, Phil Stewart



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The captain of the U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, in a blunt letter, has called on Navy leadership for stronger measures to save the lives of his sailors and stop the spread of the coronavirus aboard the huge ship.



The four-page letter, the contents of which were confirmed by U.S. officials to Reuters on Tuesday, described a bleak situation onboard the nuclear-powered carrier as more sailors test positive for the virus.

The Navy puts the ship's complement at 5,000, the equivalent of a small American town.

The letter was first reported by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Captain Brett Crozier, the ship's commanding officer, wrote that the carrier lacked enough quarantine and isolation facilities and warned the current strategy would slow but fail to eradicate the highly contagious respiratory virus.

In the letter dated Monday, he called for "decisive action" and removing over 4,000 sailors from the ship and isolating them. Along with the ship's crew, naval aviators and others serve aboard the Roosevelt.

"We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset - our sailors," Crozier wrote.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that nearly 80 people aboard the ship had tested positive for the coronavirus, a number likely to increase as all personnel on the ship are tested.

Still, the Navy declined to confirm exactly how many people aboard the Roosevelt had been infected

The carrier was in the Pacific when the Navy reported its first coronavirus case a week ago. It has since pulled into port in Guam, a U.S. island territory in the western Pacific.

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said on Tuesday it was not time to evacuate the carrier, adding he had not read the letter in detail.

In an interview with CBS News, Esper did not comment directly on Crozier's proposal, at least in the portions that aired. Asked if it was time to evacuate the carrier, Esper said: "I don't think we're at that point."

Admiral John Aquilino, head of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet, told reporters that the plan was to take some sailors off the ship, test and quarantine them, clean the ship and then rotate them

with those on the carrier.

He said that there would be some sailors who would be in quarantine and isolation on the vessel.

Asked if he was following what the ship's captain wanted to do, but was not able to do it at the pace the commanding officer wanted, Aquilino said: "That is absolutely the case."

'NOT THE SAME AS A CRUISE SHIP'

Acting U.S. Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said he had heard about the letter on Tuesday morning and that the Navy had been working for several days to get the sailors off the ship in Guam. Modly said Guam did not have enough beds and the Navy was in talks with the local government to use hotels and set up tents.

"We don't disagree with the (commanding officer) on that ship, and we're doing it in a very methodical way because it's not the same as a cruise ship ... that ship has armaments on it, it has aircraft on it," he said on CNN.

Reuters reported last week that the U.S. military had decided it would stop providing some of the more mission-specific data about coronavirus infections within its ranks, citing concern the information might be used by adversaries as the virus spreads.

FILE PHOTO: The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) is seen while entering into the port in Da Nang, Vietnam, March 5, 2020. REUTERS/Kham

The Roosevelt is just the latest example of the spread of the virus within the U.S. military. Navy officials say that sailors onboard a number of ships have tested positive, including an amphibious assault ship at port in San Diego.

The first U.S. military service member, a New Jersey Army National Guardsman, died on Saturday from COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, the Pentagon said on Monday.

As of Tuesday, 673 active-duty service members had tested positive for the coronavirus, an increase of more than 100 from the previous day, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Reporting by Idrees Ali and Phil Stewart; Additional reporting by Susan Heavey; Editing by Jonathan Oatis and Peter Cooney

Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.

Home News Sport Reel Worklife Travel Future

Home Video World US & Canada UK Business Tech Science

US & Canada

Coronavirus: US Navy captain pleads for help over outbreak

31 March 2020



Coronavirus pandemic



The captain of a US aircraft carrier carrying more than 4,000 crew has called for urgent help to halt a coronavirus outbreak on his ship.

Scores of people on board the Theodore Roosevelt have tested positive for the infection. The carrier is currently docked in Guam.

"We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die," Captain Brett Crozier wrote in a letter to the Pentagon.

Captain Crozier recommended quarantining almost the entire crew.

In the letter Captain Crozier said that with large numbers of sailors living in confined spaces on the carrier isolating sick individuals was impossible.

The coronavirus' spread was now "ongoing and accelerating", he warned, in the letter dated 30 March.

"Decisive action is needed," he said.

"Removing the majority of personnel from a deployed US nuclear aircraft carrier and isolating them for two weeks may seem like an extraordinary measure. This is a necessary risk."

It is not clear how many crew members on the Theodore Roosevelt have the coronavirus. **The San Francisco Chronicle, which first reported on the letter, said at least 100 sailors were infected.**

Speaking to Reuters news agency, a US Navy spokesman said the service was "moving quickly to take all necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of the crew of USS Theodore Roosevelt".

- THE LATEST: **Live updates**
- A SIMPLE GUIDE: **What are the symptoms?**
- AVOIDING CONTACT: **Should I self-isolate?**
- STRESS: **How to protect your mental health**
- VIDEO: **The 20-second hand wash**

What's the situation in the US?

On Tuesday the coronavirus death toll in the US passed the figure reported in China, where the outbreak began. At least 3,400 have died.

The number of recorded cases stands at over 175,000, more than any other country, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University.

New York state has seen the largest number of infections and its governor, Andrew Cuomo, warned the peak was still to come.

"We're still going up the mountain. the main battle is on the top of the mountain," he said.

Field hospitals are being built in Central Park and other New York landmarks to help ease the pressure on the city's health system.

Related Topics

Coronavirus pandemic

Guam

United States

US Armed Forces

Share this story About sharing

More on this story

Coronavirus symptoms: What are they and how do I protect myself?

18 May 2020

What this crisis reveals about US

24 March 2020

Coronavirus: US death rates v China, Italy and South Korea

31 March 2020

Top Stories

Johnson 'regrets confusion' over aide lockdown row

Chief aide Dominic Cummings admits to lockdown trips but says he does not regret his actions.

25 May 2020

I don't regret what I did, says Cummings

25 May 2020

Your Military

Theodore Roosevelt captain makes urgent plea for individual quarantine sites as COVID-19 cases multiply

Diana Stancy Correll and Valerie Insinna

📅 March 31



The carrier Theodore Roosevelt is pulling in to Guam to try and stop an outbreak of COVID-19 on board (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Nicholas Huynh)

The commanding officer of aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt is urging the Navy to step up its response to COVID-19 and secure individualized isolation for the ship's crew as COVID-19 cases aboard the ship continue to multiply, according to a new report.

While most of the Roosevelt crew remains in cramped quarters aboard the carrier, a small percentage of sailors are starting to move into group quarantine sites on shore in Guam to limit the spread of the virus — and only one of these sites is in compliance with NAVADMIN guidance.

As a result, current efforts to combat COVID-19 are inadequate, according to the Roosevelt's commanding officer Capt. Brett Crozier.

Crozier argued that the group quarantine sites would merely delay the spread of COVID-19 in a letter to Navy officials on Monday, obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle. Likewise, he noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center advise against group quarantine, and instead suggest individual quarantine.

“Sailors do not need to die,” Crozier wrote in the letter. “If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our Sailors.”

Crozier said the situation would be different in a time of conflict, because “in combat we are willing to take certain risks that are not acceptable in peacetime.”

“However, we are not at war, and therefore cannot allow a single Sailor to perish as a result of this pandemic unnecessarily,” Crozier wrote. “Decisive action is required now in order to comply with CDC and (Navy) guidance and prevent tragic outcomes.”

The Navy first announced on March 24 that three sailors aboard the carrier had tested positive for COVID-19, and Navy officials told Navy Times 40 sailors had tested positive for the virus as of Monday.

Sign up for the Early Bird Brief

Get the military's most comprehensive news and information every morning



I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

Subscribe

But those numbers could be much higher. An anonymous senior officer on the Roosevelt told the San Francisco Chronicle that as many as 200 sailors aboard the Roosevelt had tested positive for COVID-10.

According to Crozier, there are two options moving forward: either fail to achieve a COVID-19-free ship and “fight sick,” or strictly follow guidelines from the CDC to wipe out COVID-19 from the ship.

Under Crozier's proposal, approximately 10 percent of the Roosevelt crew would remain on board to operate the reactor plant and sanitize the ship, among other things. The rest would be individually isolated off the ship.

"Removing the majority of personnel from a deployed U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier and isolating them for two weeks may seem like an extraordinary measure. ... This is a necessary risk," Crozier wrote. "Keeping over 4,000 young men and women on board the TR is an unnecessary risk and breaks faith with those Sailors entrusted to our care."

The Pacific Fleet did not respond to a request for comment from the San Francisco Chronicle before deadline, and did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Military Times.

In an interview with CBS News reporter Norah O'Donnell Tuesday night, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he hadn't read Crozier's letter, but did not think the ship need to be evacuated.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas said that the Navy "doesn't disagree" with Crozier, and noted that the Navy has been working to remove sailors from the Roosevelt for days. But limited space in Guam is created some challenges, he said.

"The problem is that Guam doesn't have enough beds right now, so we're having to talk to the government there to see if we can get some hotel space, create some tent-type facilities there," Modly said in an interview with CNN Tuesday.

Likewise, Modly stressed how detailed the process is to ensure that the carrier is sanitized correctly.

"The key is to make sure that we can get a set of crew members that can man all those critical functions on the ship, make sure they're clean, get them back on, clean the ship, and get the other crew members off," Modly said. "And that's the process we're going through. It's very methodical. We're absolutely accelerating it as we go."



CNN Newsroom
@CNNnewsroom

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly on balancing the safety of the force while battling with coronavirus: "We all have one mission and that's to defend the nation. This is a unique circumstances and we're working through it." [cnn.it/33ZW0GI](https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/31/theodore-roosevelt-captain-makes-urgent-plea-for-individual-quarantine-sites-as-covid-19-cases-multiply/index.html)



50 1:08 PM - Mar 31, 2020

55 people are talking about this

U.S. Transportation Command commander Army Gen. Stephen Lyons told reporters Tuesday he has not yet received a requirement to send test kits or medical supplies and personnel to the Roosevelt. When asked who would send a request for aid to the Roosevelt, Lyons said that the Navy has significant capacity to fulfill the mission.

“But they have a lot of capacity,” Lyons said. “I can’t speak as to what that looks like on the ground so I won’t speculate as to what the requirements might be, but we’re certainly prepared to support them.”

Fox News reported on Friday that the carrier Ronald Reagan also had two cases of COVID-19. The carrier is the fleet’s only forward-deployed carrier in the Pacific, and leaves the door open for a situation where both U.S. aircraft carriers in the Asia Pacific region are sidelined.

In response to the first cases on the carrier, Modly announced Thursday that the deployed Roosevelt would head to Guam.

“We found several more cases,” Modly told reporters Thursday. “We are in the process of testing 100 percent of the crew of that ship.”

“Nobody from the ship will be allowed to leave the ship other than on the pier,” Modly said.

At the time, Modly said all of the sailors were experiencing mild symptoms and none had been hospitalized. The senior officer aboard the Roosevelt echoed similar sentiments to the San Francisco Chronicle.

After the initial cases on the Roosevelt were detected, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday said the service was bracing for additional cases.

“We’re taking this day by day,” Gilday said.

“Our top two priorities are taking care of our people and maintaining mission readiness,” Gilday said. “Both of those go hand in glove.”

As of Tuesday, the Pentagon has reported 673 COVID-19 cases among service members. New Jersey Army National Guard soldier Capt. Douglas Linn Hickok became the first service member to die of the virus on Saturday, according to the Pentagon.

Military Times Pentagon bureau chief Meghann Myers contributed to this story.

Recommended For You

Around The Web

1

Governor: 'One Guam' approach needed to defeat virus

Steve Lintiaco, Pacific Daily News USA TODAY NETWORK Published 11:12 a.m. ChT March 31, 2020

Guam must act as one – civilian and military – to overcome the coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said in a letter Monday to several community organizations.

Eight local community groups on Sunday sent the governor a letter, stating they are concerned about 36 cases of COVID-19 on the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is now docked on Guam, as well as reports of airmen who have been going to and from work during their 14-day quarantine at the Guam Reef Hotel. They said the governor should urge the military to keep all positive COVID-19 patients on base until they are clear. They also said military personnel and contractors exposed to a COVID-19 patient should be quarantined on base for 14 days, regardless of their mission-essential status.

Concerns of community

"In this time of crisis, we find it deeply alarming that the Department of Defense appears to inform you and GovGuam leadership of decisions after-the-fact instead of working with you to determine the best possible safety measures in our community's best interests," the letter stated. "We are concerned that their approach to exclude you from being a valued voice in critical decision-making will place more of our people, especially our manāmko', at risk."

"I think I have the full cooperation of the military in protecting our island and in protecting their people and our people also," the governor said during a press conference Monday.

She said many of the actions requested by community groups already are in place. The Roosevelt crew is quarantined at the pier, the military is testing all sailors using its own test kits, and the movements of mission-essential personnel who go to work are being restricted, she said.

'Many of the same concerns'

In her letter, Leon Guerrero said many people from Guam serve in the military, including nearly 20 sailors on the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Many Guam residents shop on base, she said. "I will not support any policy that makes it harder for them to survive outside the fence," she wrote.

"Because we share many of the same concerns, I speak with Joint Region Marianas on a near daily basis. Our enemy is invisible and relentless. The virus does not discriminate and it cannot be stopped by borders or a fence. We are all at risk. Defeating it demands that we are truly one Guam, in words and in action," she said Monday.

The following groups signed off on Sunday's letter to the governor: I Hagan Famalão'an Guåhan; Manhoben Para Guåhan; Guåhan Coalition for Peace and Justice; GCC EcoWarriors; Independent Guåhan; Prutehi Litekyan; Micronesia Climate Change Alliance; Duk Duk Goose Inc. / Nihi.

Read or Share this story: <https://www.guampdn.com/story/news/local/2020/03/31/governor-one-guam-approach-needed-defeat-virus/2938329001/>



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

April 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: SECNAV VECTOR 19

Before I start I want you all to know that I never, ever thought Vector 19 would be my final vector to you. I actually thought it was going to be around Vector 9! That being said, I am incredibly honored to have ever had the chance to have written even Vector 1.

This past week has been what I have been talking to you about all along—what we can best predict about the future is that it will be unpredictable. No doubt you have all monitored the events this week which placed our Navy in the spotlight in a negative way—largely due to my poor use of words yesterday on the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (TR). You are justified in being angry with me about that. There is no excuse, but perhaps a glimpse of understanding, and hopefully empathy.

I have been monitoring the crew of the TR and all of ships with coronavirus (COVID-19) cases closely. I have personally spoken with the Commanding Officer (CO) of every ship and installation in which we have such cases. When I walked on the quarterdeck of the TR I lost situational awareness and decided to speak with them as if I was their commander, or their shipmate, rather than their Secretary. They deserved better, and I hope that over the passage of time that they will understand the words themselves rather than the manner in which they were delivered. But what's done is done. I can't take it back, and frankly I don't know if I walked back up that quarterdeck today if I wouldn't have the same level of emotions that drove my delivery yesterday.

The crew deserved a lot more empathy and a lot less lecturing—I lost sight of that at the time and I am deeply sorry for some of the words and for how they were spread across the media landscape like a wildfire. I had hoped to transmit a message of love, and duty, and mission, and courage in the face of adversity. Those words are in there, but they are now lost, because of me, and I will regret that for the rest of my life. But, I am not a football head coach, or a master chief, or even the ship's own CO, I am the Secretary of the Navy and you, and they, should expect more out of me. I own it.

I realize that I have consistently told each and every one of you “Don't Ever, Ever Give Up the Ship.” That is why it is very important for me to communicate to you why I have submitted my resignation today. We all have to understand what our ship is. I love the Navy and Marine Corps. I love our country, and I love you. You are all on my one big ship. But the ramifications of mistakes, even simple ones, when someone is charged with protecting a ship that large and that important can be fatal. It is not just missiles that can take us down, words can do it too, if we aren't careful with how and when we use them.

My lack of situational awareness due to my emotions of the moment did the exact same thing to MY ship, as I would hold you accountable for as you lead yours. I brought incoming fire onto our team and I am convinced that the fire will continue unrelentingly until the target is gone. I know what I have to do save the ship. I have always tried to do the right thing for all of you. Always. I never cared about the title, I cared about the relationships. I trust you all know that and that you know how terribly sad I am right now that I disappointed you by not keeping our ship out of harm's way. It's my fault. I own it.

Now on to the vector:

In the classic hard rock satire "rock-umentary" movie called "This is Spinal Tap," there is a scene in which the lead guitarist, Nigel Tufnil, played by Christopher Guest, is explaining how their band is able to take their sound to the next level. He shows the interviewer, played by Rob Reiner, the Spinal Tap amplifiers and explains that instead of going to volume level 10 like all other traditional hard rock amplifiers, Spinal Tap's amplifiers have an extra level of volume—volume level 11. The interviewer says, "well instead of having 11 why don't you make each individual level just a little louder than the traditional amplifier—so you know make the 1 a little louder, the 2 a little louder, the 3 a little louder, etc., up to 10?" Nigel looks at him with the apparent inability to grasp the concept of doing something different than the way he has always done it. He pauses, dumbfounded, and simply says, "But, these go to 11."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOO5S4vxi0o>

Does this sound like a familiar story to you? How many times in your Navy or Marine Corps career have you thought about, or even suggested, a different, better way of doing things and the response has been, "Well, that's not how we do it?" I guarantee that this has happened to you more than once. If not, you must not be in the Department of the Navy and you should not be on the distribution list for this email!

Don't worry, this happens everywhere. People and organizations are resistant to change. Change is uncomfortable. The important point is that phrases like "this is how we do it in the Navy" or "this is how we do it in the Marine Corps" can be dual-edged swords. There is great value in stability, in tradition, in order, in a consistent way of doing things that we must respect and appreciate. But when it stifles the characteristics of agility that I have spoken to you about before (velocity, visibility, adaptability, innovation, collaboration, trust, humility, and skepticism), those same "this is how we do it" phrases can erode a team's ability to win in a dynamic and rapidly changing environment - like the one that we are in.

I want to focus on one of these characteristics specifically this week: visibility. Visibility is all about communications up, and perhaps more importantly, down the chain of command. Visibility is also about knowing when and how to appropriately consult and communicate laterally across the organization. For our Navy and Marine Corps team, it must never be about sharing operationally sensitive information for the world to see about your ship, your unit, your acquisition program, your team, your concerns about readiness, your personal views about your command, etc.

In my previous line of work with a big consulting firm, we prided ourselves for being a learning organization. We had training and learning requirements that put us through a variety of different legal, moral, operational, customer, ethical, and leadership challenges. As each challenge was presented, and possible answers discussed, invariably the first thing that was cited that we should do was to “consult.” This did not mean go out and sell a consulting project to a client, rather it meant “consult” with others across the organization, up and down, to seek the best solution to specific problems. It was amazing to me how empowering this was. How much I could learn if I put myself out there to seek it without fear of retribution or resentment.

In 2010, with that same firm, I was leading a project team in Baghdad assisting U.S. forces with the economic development mission in the country. Out of the blue, in the spring of 2010, my DoD client asked us to split the team and send half to Afghanistan to help the Ministry of Mines develop an official tendering process for its minerals industry. This is a process nation’s use to sell national mineral rights to mining companies. No one on that team had any experience in mining, but the request was urgent. We “consulted.” I reached out broadly to my partners in the US firm, who connected me to our US mining practice leader, who then connected us to our global mining practice leader in London, who then connected us to the most experienced team in the world, with respect to tendering in lesser developed countries. Within days we had the most experienced team in the world engaged in Afghanistan. “Consulting” works. It empowers teams. It is a force multiplier.

In the military culture we must sustain the sanctity of the chain of command. But in the information age in which we all live, that sanctity is only useful to our mission if we use that chain for frequent communications up and down, even if this means skipping steps down if you are the highest responsible person at the top of that chain. The world is moving too fast to do otherwise.

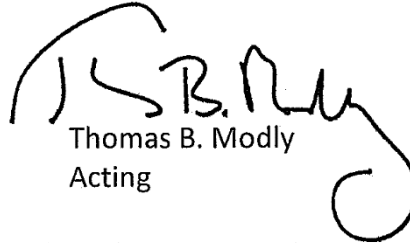
The events of the last several weeks with respect to my decision to relieve the CO of the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT indicate to me that we have some work to do in this regard, so you must pick up the mantle and fix this. No person should ever be afraid of bringing up issues of concern to their immediate superiors through an established and well understood path that respects both the chain of command and our own individual duty to fulfill our oaths. And, no commander should ever resent or discourage anyone senior in their chain of command from reaching down to gain better situational awareness from the people closest to the problem. That being said, there is a proper, courteous, and respectful way to do this that we must adhere to, especially during times of crisis.

I know we can do this, it just takes a willingness to recognize it is important. And the next time someone says to you “that’s not the way we do it”, think to yourself, “these go to 11”, smile politely, and then apply yourself even harder to seek a better way.

I love you all. Know that every second of every minute of every hour of every day of my time leading you has been an honor and a privilege, and I grateful for your friendship, mentorship, and willingness to listen and act on my behalf.

SUBJECT: SECNAV VECTOR 19

You know what to do. Take the helm. It's your ship now. Don't ever, ever, ever give it up. And forever, Beat Army!



Thomas B. Modly
Acting

SECNAV Vectors are released each Friday to the entire DON. Previous Vectors can be viewed <https://navylive.dodlive.mil/2020/01/02/secnav-vectors/>.

SECNAV VECTOR 1: Priorities and Near-Term Objectives
SECNAV VECTOR 2: Unified in Grief, Heroism, and Resolve
SECNAV VECTOR 3: Make Ford Ready
SECNAV VECTOR 4: December Honors and Remembrance
SECNAV VECTOR 5: DON Business Operations Plan
SECNAV VECTOR 6: Path to a 355 Plus Integrated Naval Force
SECNAV VECTOR 7: Education for Seapower
SECNAV VECTOR 8: Partners and Allies
SECNAV VECTOR 9: Hypersonic Capabilities
SECNAV VECTOR 10: Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
SECNAV VECTOR 11: Naval Information Strategy
SECNAV VECTOR 12: Future Naval Force
SECNAV VECTOR 13: Naval Education Goals and Pillars
SECNAV VECTOR 14: Financial Accountability
SECNAV VECTOR 15: Force Health Protection Guidance for the Department of Navy
SECNAV VECTOR 16: Agility in a Time of Crisis
SECNAV VECTOR 17: Don't Give Up the Ship
SECNAV VECTOR 18: DON Support to COVID Response

Distribution:

CMC
CNO
ASN (EI&E)
ASN (FM&C)
ASN (M&RA)
ASN (RD&A)
ACMC
VCNO
AUDGEN
CHINFO
CLO
CNR
DALO
DMCS

SUBJECT: SECNAV VECTOR 19

DNS
JAG
DON CIO
DUSN
GC
NAVIG
NCIS
OCMO
OLA
OSBP
SAPRO

[Home](#) » [Budget Industry](#) » **UPDATED: Modly Resigns Amidst Carrier Roosevelt Controversy; Army Undersecretary to Serve as Acting SECNAV**

UPDATED: Modly Resigns Amidst Carrier Roosevelt Controversy; Army Undersecretary to Serve as Acting SECNAV

By: **Sam LaGrone and Ben Werner**

April 7, 2020 4 05 PM • Updated April 28, 2020 11 24 AM



H-4-132

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly speaks to Sailors aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH-19) from across the brow via the ship's 1-MC public address system, March 31, 2020. US Navy Photo

This post has been updated to include Thomas Modly's resignation letter and reactions from members of Congress.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly has resigned from his post after a day and a half of widespread criticism surrounding the removal of the commander of an aircraft carrier that is battling a COVID-19 outbreak, according to a copy of the resignation letter obtained by USNI News.

"More than anything, I owe every member of the Navy and Marine Corps team a lifetime of gratitude for the opportunity to serve for them, and with them, once again. They are the reason why I will forever remain inspired by the call of service. They are the ones who lift our nation, heal our divides, and make this country the greatest in the history of the world," Modly wrote in the letter addressed to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper.

"That is why with a heavy heart, I hereby submit my resignation, effective immediately. The men and women of the Department of the Navy deserve a continuity of civilian leadership befitting our great Republic, and the decisive naval force that secures our way of life. I will be forever grateful for my opportunity, and the blessing, to be part of it."

In a Tuesday statement, Esper said he would appoint the Army's current number two civilian as the acting SECNAV.



"I am appointing current Army Undersecretary Jim McPherson as acting Secretary of the Navy. Jim is a retired Admiral with a distinguished 26-year naval career, serving ashore, afloat, and overseas during his time in uniform. I know Jim McPherson well," Esper wrote.

"He is a smart, capable, and professional leader who will restore confidence and stability in the Navy during these challenging times. Jim will serve as acting Secretary of the Navy until a permanent Navy Secretary is confirmed."

Modly offered his resignation to Esper a day after he made a speech to sailors aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71) in which he criticized the carrier's former commanding

James E. McPherson. US Army Photo

officer, Capt. Brett Crozier. While addressing the sailors, Modly said an alarming letter Crozier sent potentially broke the law and was designed to be leaked to the press.

To print the document, click the "Original Document" link to open the original PDF. At this time it is not possible to print the document with annotations.

Crozier's letter stated sailors were at risk of succumbing to the virus unless the service stepped up testing and isolation procedures on Guam.

"If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset – our sailors," he wrote in the letter that was leaked to *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Crozier was removed from his command on April 2 on orders from Modly for "extremely poor judgment."

On Monday, Modly traveled to the carrier and spoke to the sailors aboard and was critical of Crozier. Modly said if Crozier thought the information wasn't going to go public in the way he sent it, he was "too naïve or stupid" to command the carrier.

To print the document, click the "Original Document" link to open the original PDF. At this time it is not possible to print the document with annotations.

Following a leaked recording of the speech and backlash from Congress and the public, Modly submitted a hasty apology late Wednesday.

“I want to apologize to the Navy for my recent comments to the crew of the TR. Let me be clear, I do not think Capt. Brett Crozier is naïve nor stupid. I think, and always believed him to be the opposite. We pick our carrier commanding officers with great care,” the statement read. “Capt. Crozier is smart and passionate. I believe, precisely because he is not naive and stupid, that he sent his alarming email with the intention of getting it into the public domain in an effort to draw public attention to the situation on his ship. I apologize for any confusion this choice of words may have caused.”

Reaction to Modly’s resignation from Capitol Hill was swift, with members issuing statements supporting the move and some calling for a review of the actions leading up to the resignation.

“Acting Secretary Modly submitting his formal resignation to Secretary Esper was the right thing to do. After mismanaging the COVID-19 outbreak on the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, it became obvious that Acting Secretary Modly had forfeited his ability to lead the Navy. His actions had become a distraction at a time when we need the Navy to be focused on preserving the safety of our Sailors and maintaining the readiness of our fleet,” said a statement from Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), the chair of the House Armed Services Committee.

Sen. James Inhofe, (R-Okla.) the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, issued a statement expressing his concern over what has become a months-long process to firm-up the leadership of the Navy and Marine Corps. The nomination of retired Navy Rear Adm. Kenneth Braithwaite secretary of the Navy has been pending since February.

“It’s disturbing to me that there’s been so much turmoil at the top of the Department of the Navy over the last year. In this difficult time, the Navy needs leaders now more than ever who can provide continuity and steady, insightful leadership,” Inhofe wrote.

“Once the Senate is back in session, I will make sure the Armed Services Committee considers the nomination of the next Secretary of the Navy quickly, and I ask my fellow committee members to help me expedite this nomination as well.”

Rep. Joe Courtney, (D-Conn.) issued a statement saying Modly’s decision to resign, “was a necessary step to restore the confidence of every sailor and member of the US Navy that its leadership is committed to their wellbeing,” he said.

“Mr. Modly did the right thing in stepping aside. Hopefully it will allow the Navy to focus on caring for the crew and their families, as well as for a fresh review of the Captain Crozier’s punishment, which simple fairness demands.”



Under Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly speaks to Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard officers during the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) symposium on Aug. 7, 2019. US Navy Photo

Rep. Rob Wittman, (R-Va.), the ranking member of the House Armed Services subcommittee on seapower and projection forces, issued a statement accepting the reasoning behind Modly's resignation.

"After acting Secretary Modly's recent actions, I support Secretary Esper's decision to accept his resignation. I believe that this move is critical to making our Navy whole again and getting back on track to address this unique readiness situation during these challenging times," Wittman wrote. "Going forward, I will work with the Department of Defense, in my oversight role, to ensure that every possible step is being taken to safeguard the health of our service members, provide our commanders the resources they need, and maintain our military presence around the globe."

Rep. Mac Thornberry, (R-Texas), the HASC ranking member, issued a statement that avoided delving into the controversy surrounding Modly's resignation, instead opting to focus on the work of service members responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"All of our service members, including our sailors, deserve to be able to do their best on the tasks assigned to them without unnecessary distractions. The change in the office of the Secretary of the Navy should allow the country to put this episode behind us and allow sailors to focus on the very important missions at hand," said the statement from Thornberry.

Earlier in the day, during a lunch-time media conference, Smith said Modly lost his ability to effectively lead the service once he made his speech aboard *Theodore Roosevelt* denigrating the ship's former commanding officer.

Speaking before it was known Modly had resigned, Smith said he couldn't see a way for Modly to continue as acting secretary after giving the speech.

"Having made that decision I think Acting Secretary Modly is going to have a heck of a time getting the confidence of the Navy back having made that speech," Smith said during lunchtime Tuesday.

Smith said he wished the decision to relieve Crozier of command had been handled better, with more consideration for the circumstances and what Smith said was predictable blow-back from the public and Navy community.

"What on earth possessed the acting secretary to think that that speech was a good idea," Smith said.

Related

Modly Apologizes to Roosevelt Crew, Former CO as Navy Extends Investigation; Trump Says He 'May Just Get Involved'

April 6, 2020
In "Military Personnel"



Navy Probe into Letter From Carrier Roosevelt CO Ends Monday; Report Says Brett Crozier Has COVID-19

April 5, 2020
In "News & Analysis"



Modly Tells Carrier Roosevelt Crew Former CO Could Have Broken Military Law

Modly Tells Carrier Roosevelt Crew Former CO Could Have Broken Military Law

April 6, 2020
In "Budget Industry"

Like What You've Been Reading?
Get **PROCEEDINGS** today!



Order Now

Article Keywords: CNO Adm. Michael Gilday, Coronavirus, COVID 19, Guam, President Donald Trump, Thomas Modly, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71)

Categories: Budget Industry, Military Personnel, News & Analysis, Surface Forces, U.S. Navy

About Sam LaGrone and Ben Werner

Sam LaGrone is the editor of USNI News. He has covered legislation, acquisition and operations for the Sea Services since 2009 and spent time underway with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the Canadian Navy. Ben Werner is a USNI News staff writer.

Follow @samlagrone

View all posts by Sam LaGrone and Ben Werner →

ALSO ON USNI NEWS